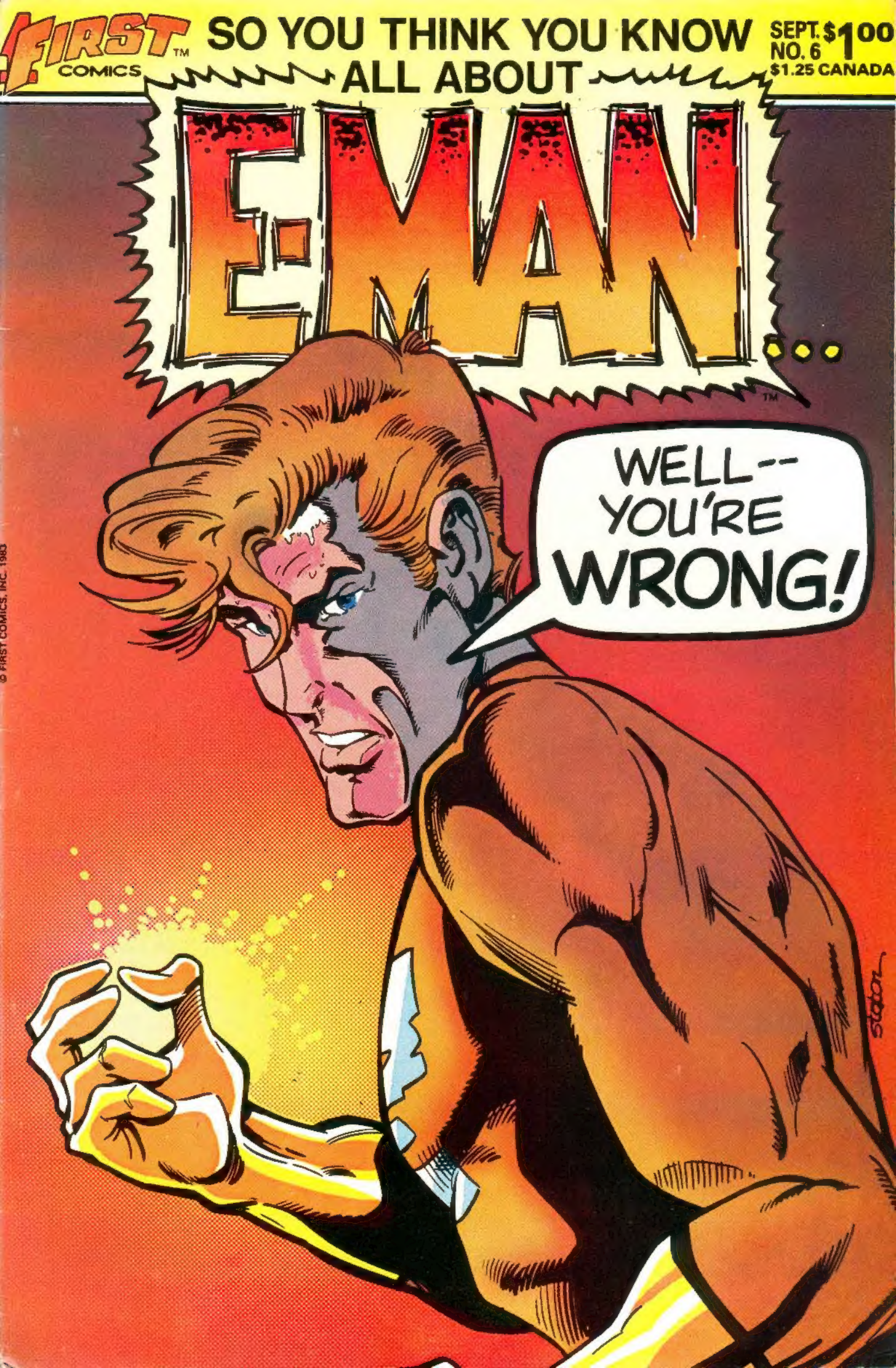
FIRST™ COMICS

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT E-MAN...

SEPT. NO. 6
$1.00
$1.25 CANADA



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FIRST NOTES

ONE PLUG, FREE OF CHARGE

For quite some time now, "we" (the editorial staff of First Comics) have been fans and close followers of the burgeoning comics explosion in England, with 2000 A.D. and talents like Brian Bolland, Dave Gibbons, Mike McMahon, and John Wagner. Then old-time U.K. fan Dez Skinn came out with a monthly black and white comics magazine that captured all that energy and compressed it into about 48 tremendously exciting pages.

The magazine is called Warrior, and it carries about a half-dozen regular features, mostly of a science-fiction/heroic nature. It carries some of the most interesting writing and art we've seen in an anthology title, particularly the writing of Mr. Alan Moore, a man I've never met but really wish lived across the street from our offices.

Quite a few comics specialty shops — possibly the place where you picked up this comic book — carry Warrior. If you are a serious comics fan, or just a person who enjoys exciting and unusual stories, you owe it to yourself to check this one out.

Rick Obadiah, Publisher

Mike Gold, Managing Editor
Joe Staton, Art Director
Rick Oliver, Associate Editor
Bruce Patterson, Production Coordinator

Richard Felber, Business Manager
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E-MAN™ COMICS, Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1983. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., Mike Gold, President; Rick Obadiah, Secretary; Richard Felber, Treasurer; Kenneth F. Levin and Ralph C. Musicant, Directors. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 1014 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Published monthly.

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Price: $1.00 in the U.S., $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $11.00 in the U.S., $13.75 in Canada, and $27.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds.

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Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press. Engraved by Post Graphics. Available where ever you bought it. Second-class postage pending at Evanston, IL and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Comics, Inc., 1014 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

ANOTHER PLUG, ALSO FREE

Ever since comics fandom was knee-high to a grasshopper, one of the dominant themes in the 'zines has been "how can we expand the horizons of comics — how can we do something new, that appeals to us on a higher intellectual level?" Those of us who do not speak Japanese or the European tongues have been left out; *those* guys have been able to write comics to an older audience for decades now.

One of the most impressive — and most important — efforts has been the Barefoot Gen saga — Keiji Nakazawa's semi-autobiographical story of the bombing of Hiroshima, how it affected its citizens, how it changed the world for evermore. Barefoot Gen runs (I'm told) some 12000 pages — the first 600 of which have been reprinted in English in two volumes.

Recently, Educomics (Box 40246, San Francisco, CA 94140) reprinted Nakazawa's I Saw It, his 46 page story of his own experiences living through the Hiroshima bombing. I Saw It is one of the most gripping stories ever to be told in the comics format; Nakazawa is a master storyteller, and his story is one of the most important of the 20th century.

AND A THIRD PLUG

Marvel editor-in-chief Jim Shooter said, "I never read Steve Canyon ... After I joined Marvel's editorial staff in 1976, I began hearing that name, Milton Caniff, virtually every day." Caniff has been acknowledged as one of the true masters of the comic art form, yet a man as learned and as experienced as Jim Shooter was not able to see his work.

That is the central problem with the study of comic strips: they aren't as accessible as comic books. Steve Canyon might be in several hundred newspapers — and it is — but if it isn't in your city, or in the paper you happen to read every day, you miss out.

Denis Kitchen, who seems to be making a living out of late 1940's comics, once again has come to our rescue by publishing the first issue of Milton Caniff's Steve Canyon Magazine, a 64 page black-and-white quarterly, the first issues of which reprints (from proofs or original art) the first four months of the famous comic strip.

Giving credit where credit is due, the magazine is the brain-child of Shel Dorf, who edits the publication, who letters Steve Canyon, who is one of the organizers of the San Diego comic art convention, and who is a well-known interviewer for the fan press. The Steve Canyon Magazine is a labor of love for Shel; it shows.

FAMILY ALBUM

Keep an eye peeled (jeez, what a disgusting concept) for the first of four books from Bantam paperbacks, entitled "Be An Interplanetary Spy." The book just might be the first role-playing game in comics-related format, and is interesting as such; but as far as we're concerned, it is far more interesting because of the guys who were responsible for the illustrative aspects of this series: Marc Hempel and Mark Wheatley.

If you don't read Heavy Metal or Epic Illustrated, you might not be familiar with Marc and Mark; but if you are a follower of First Comics, you're going to become quite familiar with their work. Starting this fall.

I'll say no more.

A whole bunch of us are going to be at the first annual St. Louis comic book convention next month — the weekend of June 18 and 19 — and we'll be glad to meet you there. The convention's guest of honor will be Mike Grell, who will be joined by Joe Staton, Rick Burchett, and an editor named ...

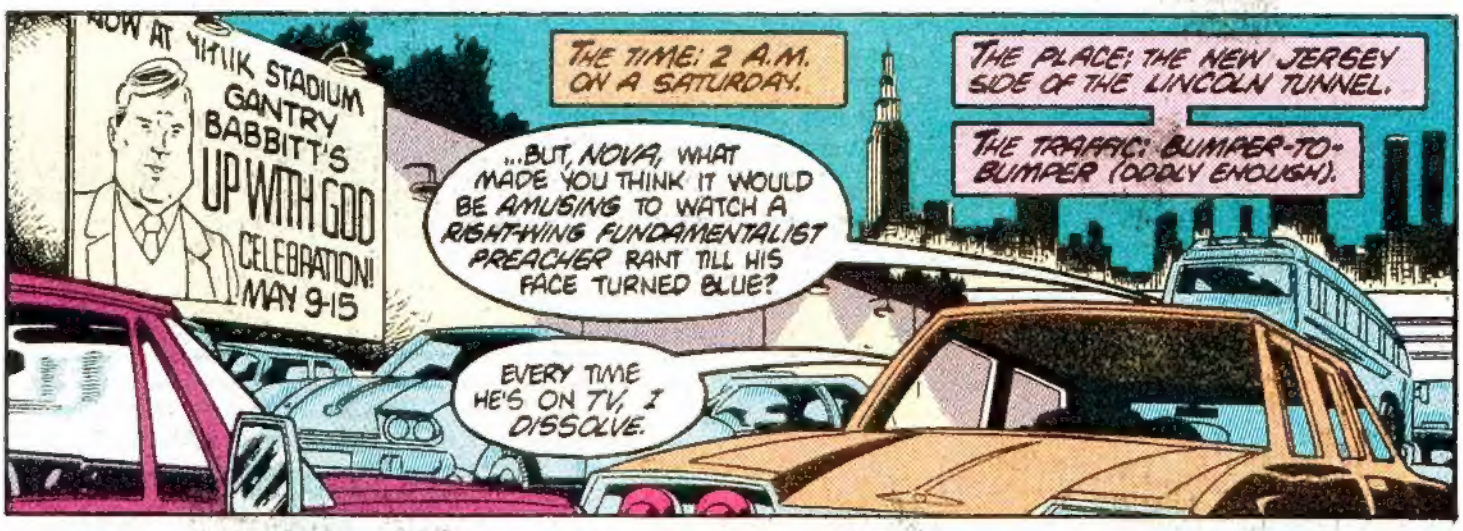
— Mike Gold.

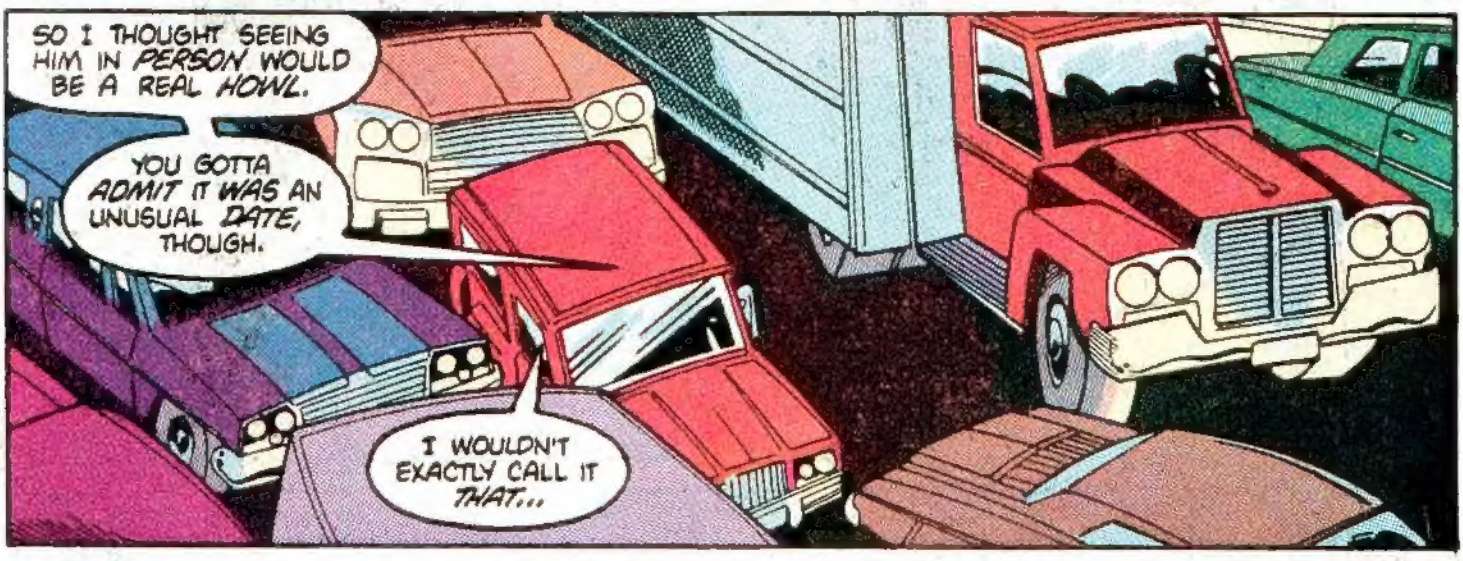
ON SALE NOW

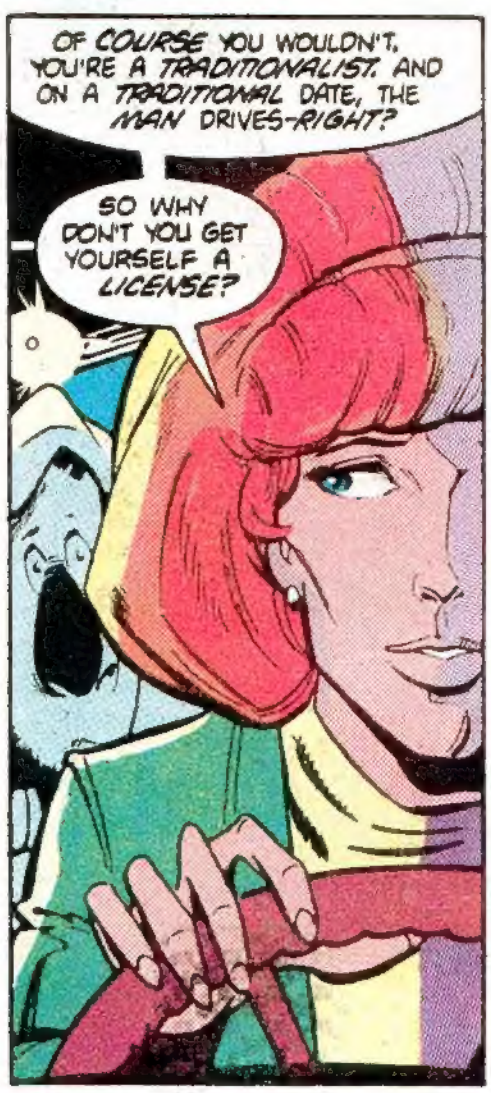
Jon Sable, Freelance #4: The origin story continues, this month focusing in on the story behind Jon Sable's battlemask and our hero's entry into the masked manhunter business. "Battlemask: The Origin, Part Two" was written and drawn by **Mike Grell,** who also turned in the cover.

Warp #6: Xander grabs the Crystal, and, boy, are Chaos and Cumulus in for it now. "Today The Crystal ..." is by **Frank Brunner** (storyteller and penciller), **Peter Gillis** (scripter) and **Mike Gustovich** (inker). Plus, the second part of our Sargon saga, "Sword and Shield" by **John Ostrander** (writer), **Lenin Delsol** (penciller) and **Bruce Patterson** (inker). Cover by **Brunner.**

Starslayer #8: Concluding the post-Earth saga, Torin Mac Quillon decides to go back home — to an Earth he knows to be destroyed! "The Raptor Is A Bird of Prey," from writer/breakdown artist **Mike Grell,** penciller **Lenin Delsol,** and inker **Mike Gustovich.** Cover by **Grell.** Oh, yes: in case you didn't notice, **Starslayer's** now being published *monthly!*

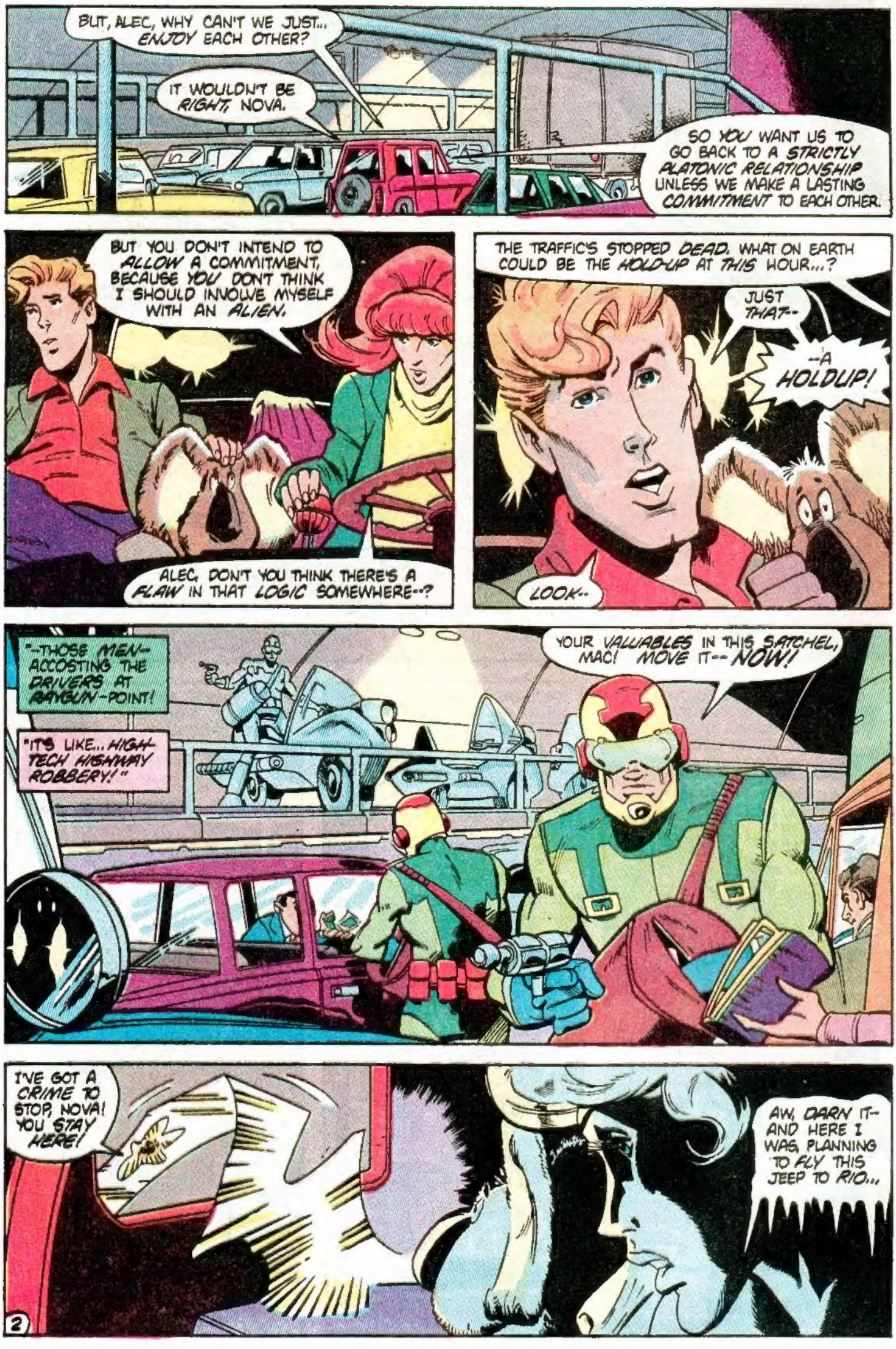

NOW AT YITLIK STADIUM GANTRY BABBITT'S UP WITH GOD CELEBRATION! MAY 9-15
THE TIME: 2 A.M. ON A SATURDAY.
THE PLACE: THE NEW JERSEY SIDE OF THE LINCOLN TUNNEL.
THE TRAFFIC: BUMPER-TO-BUMPER (ODDLY ENOUGH).
...BUT, NOVA, WHAT MADE YOU THINK IT WOULD BE AMUSING TO WATCH A RIGHT-WING FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RANT TILL HIS FACE TURNED BLUE?
EVERY TIME HE'S ON TV, I DISSOLVE.

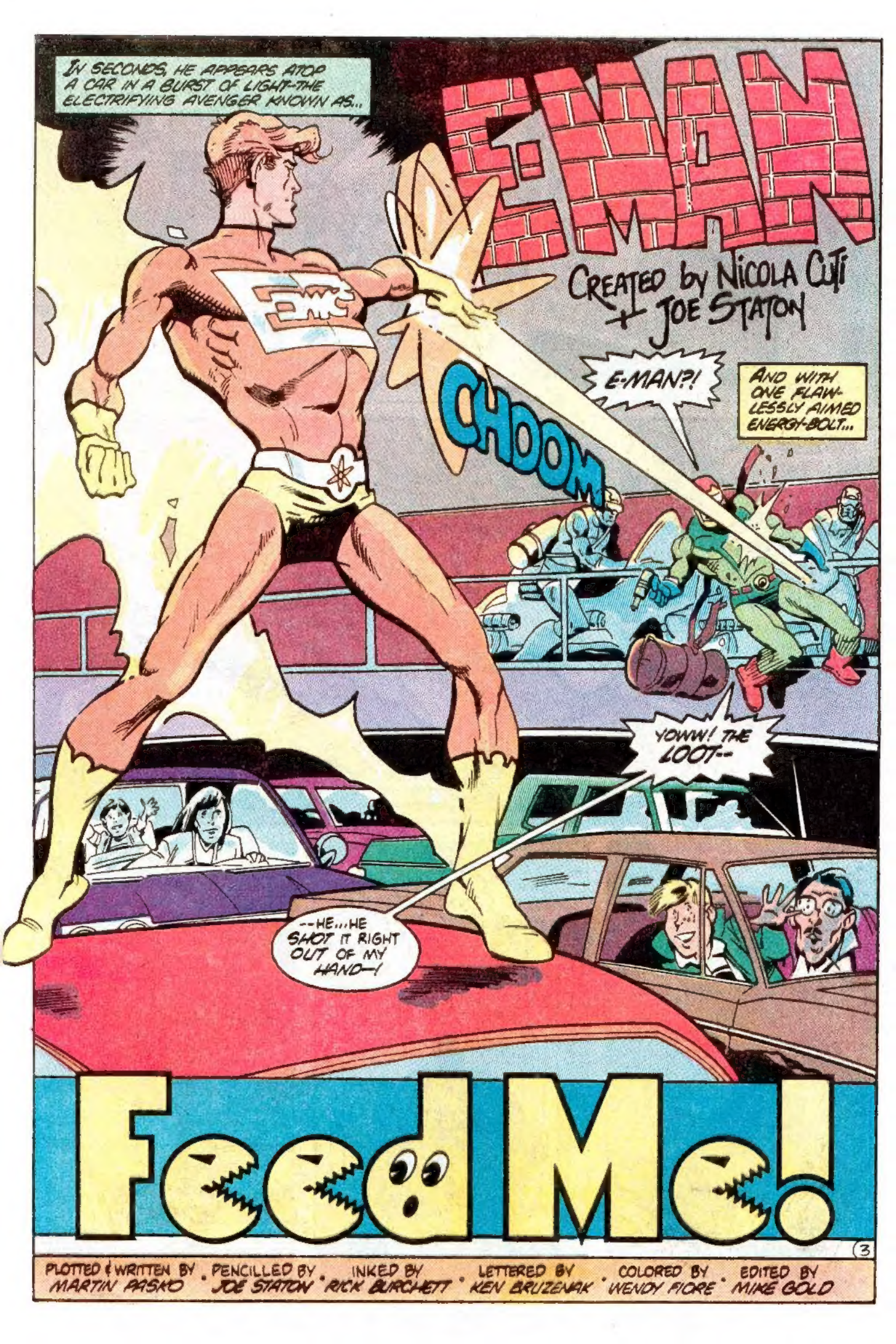

SO I THOUGHT SEEING HIM IN PERSON WOULD BE A REAL HOWL.
YOU GOTTA ADMIT IT WAS AN UNUSUAL DATE, THOUGH.
I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL IT THAT...


OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T. YOU'RE A TRADITIONALIST. AND ON A TRADITIONAL DATE, THE MAN DRIVES-RIGHT?
SO WHY DON'T YOU GET YOURSELF A LICENSE?

AND WHEN THEY ASK ME TO SHOW MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE, WHAT DO I SAY?
"SORRY, I DON'T HAVE ONE BECAUSE I WAS CREATED BY AN EXPLODING STAR A MILLION YEARS AGO?"
ALEC, FORGET I MENTIONED IT.

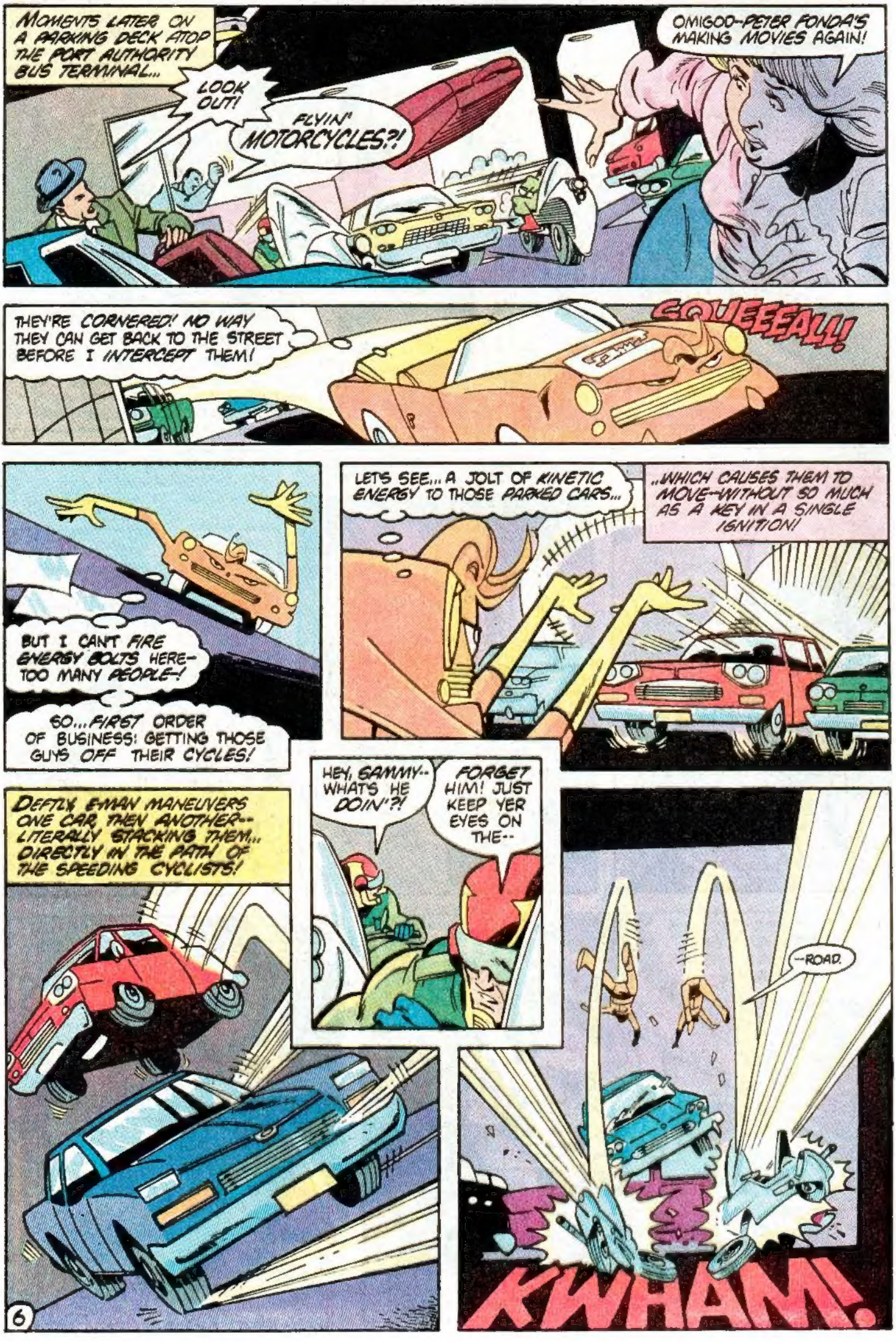
WHAT I WAS SAYING IS: DON'T THINK OF IT AS "DATING."
WE'RE STARTING IN ON THIS AGAIN?
I'M SERIOUS.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME, NOVA--YOU LIKE ME, BUT YOU DON'T LOVE ME...

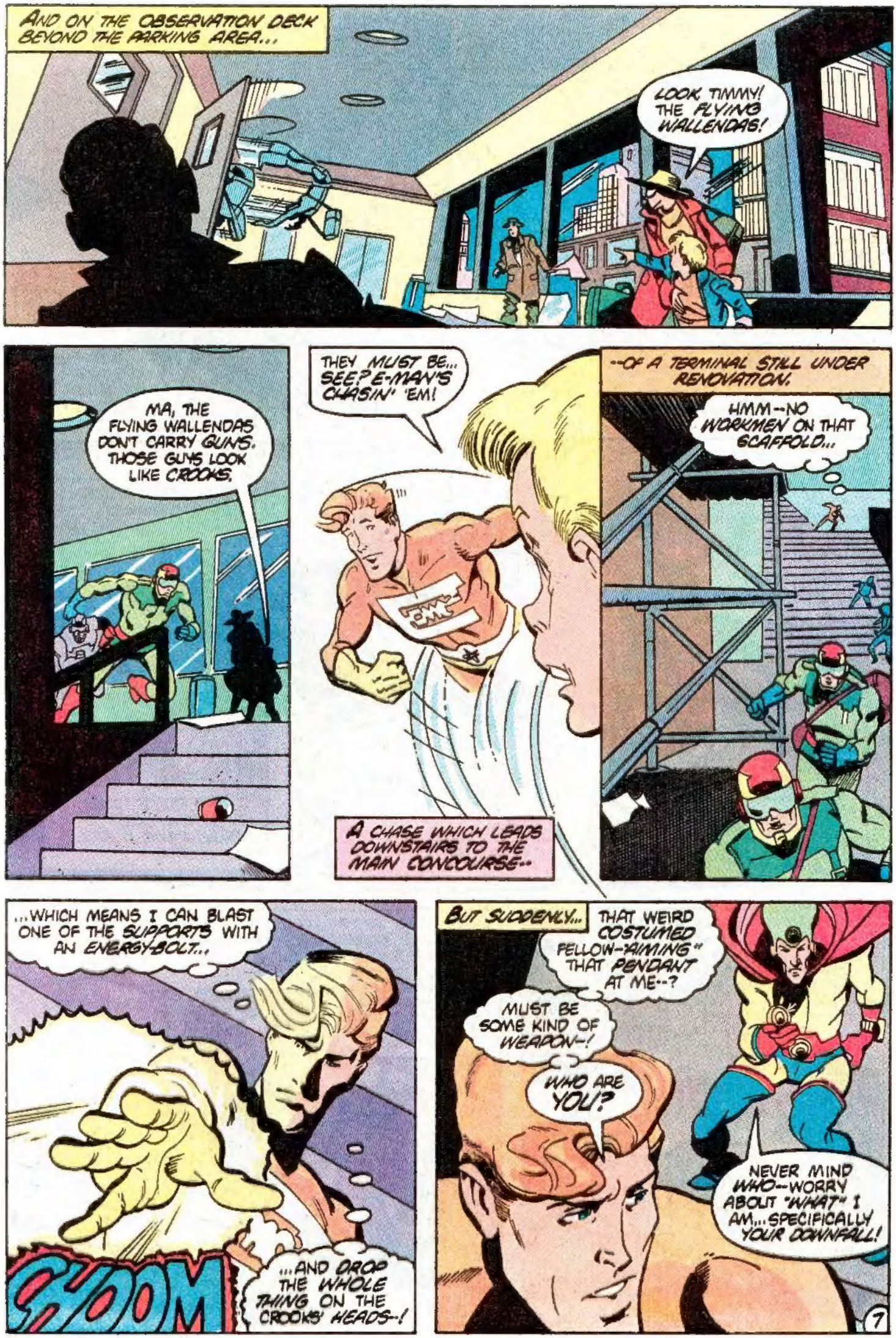

BUT, ALEC, WHY CAN'T WE JUST... ENJOY EACH OTHER?
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT, NOVA.
SO YOU WANT US TO GO BACK TO A STRICTLY PLATONIC RELATIONSHIP UNLESS WE MAKE A LASTING COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER.
BUT YOU DON'T INTEND TO ALLOW A COMMITMENT, BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD INVOLVE MYSELF WITH AN ALIEN.
ALEC, DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S A FLAW IN THAT LOGIC SOMEWHERE--?
THE TRAFFIC'S STOPPED DEAD. WHAT ON EARTH COULD BE THE HOLD-UP AT THIS HOUR...?
JUST THAT--
--A HOLDUP!
LOOK--
--THOSE MEN-- ACCOSTING THE DRIVERS AT RAYGUN-POINT!
"IT'S LIKE... HIGH-TECH HIGHWAY ROBBERY!"
YOUR VALUABLES IN THIS SATCHEL, MAC! MOVE IT-- NOW!
I'VE GOT A CRIME TO STOP, NOVA! YOU STAY HERE!
AW, DARN IT-- AND HERE I WAS, PLANNING TO FLY THIS JEEP TO RIO...
2


IN SECONDS, HE APPEARS ATOP A CAR IN A BURST OF LIGHT--THE ELECTRIFYING AVENGER KNOWN AS...
E-MAN
CREATED by NICOLA CUTI + JOE STATON
E-MAN?!
AND WITH ONE FLAWLESSLY AIMED ENERGY-BOLT...
CHOOM
YOWW! THE LOOT--
--HE...HE SHOT IT RIGHT OUT OF MY HAND--!
Feed Me!
3
PLOTTED & WRITTEN BY MARTIN PASKO · PENCILLED BY JOE STATON · INKED BY RICK BURCHETT · LETTERED BY KEN BRUZENAK · COLORED BY WENDY FIORE · EDITED BY MIKE GOLD

MEANWHILE--ELSEWHERE IN THE TUNNEL...
THOUGHTMASTER #1 TO OPERATIONS CENTRAL: TRONN AND THE WOMAN NOW IN SIGHT..
ROBBINS OF MOTORISTS UNDER WAY-- OVER.
VERY GOOD, T.M. ONE. NOW SEE TO IT YOU FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED A FEW MONTHS AGO..
--AND ENSURE THAT ALL E-MAN'S RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS ENCOUNTER WITH YOU ARE ERASED? I WILL, SIR--
--I PROMISE! THIS TIME I WILL INDUCE TOTAL AND IRREVERSIBLE AMNESIA IN HIM!
YOU'D BETTER, OR ELSE--
I KNOW, SIR --shudder-- I KNOW.
BRING HIM UNDER MY DOMINATION AND TRANSPORT HIM TO HEADQUARTERS...
...WHERE YOU WILL CONDUCT CERTAIN TESTS TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE HE'S NO LONGER A THREAT TO YOU?
PRECISELY. NOW DO IT. SCREW IT UP THIS TIME, AND--
Y-Y-YESSIR, I KNOW...
...YOU'LL SEND ME TO NEW JERSEY.
AND YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS. YOU KNOW WHY THEY CALL IT "THE GARDEN STATE," DON'T YOU?
YESSIR.
BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FIT "TOXIC WASTE DUMP STATE" ON A LICENSE PLATE.
BUT EVEN AS THIS MYSTERIOUS "THOUGHTMASTER" SPEAKS...
4

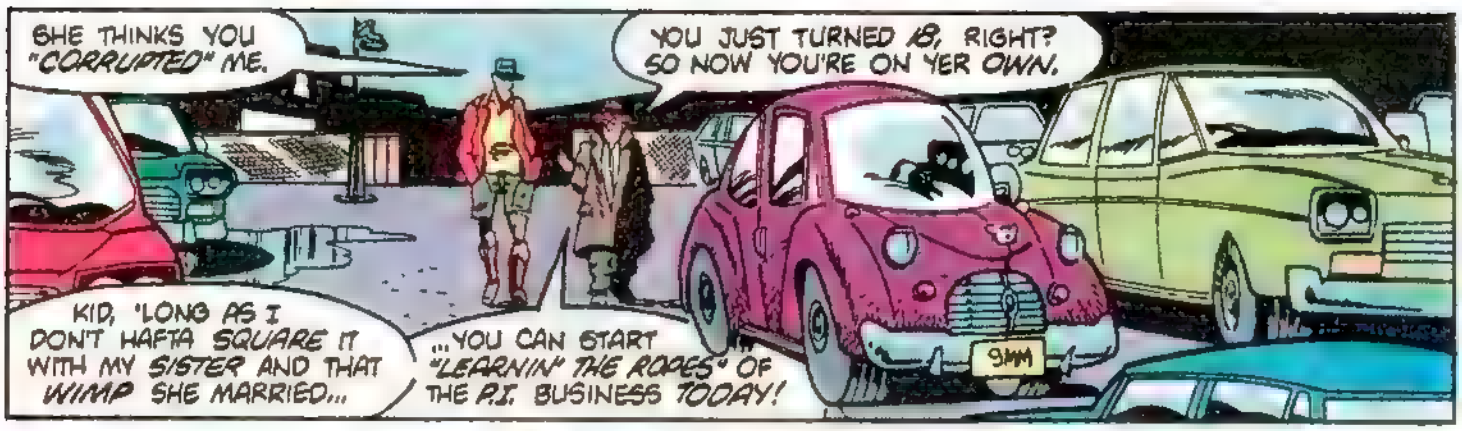
...HE'S UNAWARE THAT HIS QUARRY IS ALREADY IN ACTION--FOR E-MAN IS NOW BLASTING ONE OF THE ROBBERS' JET CYCLES INTO SPARE PARTS!
KHOOM!
LOOKS LIKE TWO ARE ESCAPING--FOR NOW, ANYWAY.
NOT EVEN I CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.
HAVE TO SETTLE FOR GETTING SOME INFO OUT OF THIS ONE.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THOSE JET-BOOSTERS ON YOUR CYCLES--THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THEM ON EARTH! WHERE'D YOU GET THEM? WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?
JUST THEN...
UH-OH--E-MAN'S NABBED HARRY! CAN'T LET HIM FIND OUT ANYTHING!
TIME TO SCRAMBLE THE ENERGY-FREAK'S SYNAPSES--!
UNFORTUNATELY, E-MAN IS ALSO ATTEMPTING A MIND MANIPULATION...
HE WON'T TALK. HAVE TO RESORT TO A CEREBRAL ENERGY-PROBE.
...AND HIS PROBE DEFLECTS THE THOUGHTMASTER'S HYPNOTIC RAY--DIRECTLY INTO HARRY'S BRAIN!
NOW--WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?
♪MAIRZEY DOTES AND DOZEY DOTES AN' LI'L LAMSEY DIVEY...♪
WELL, THAT WAS CERTAINLY FRUITLESS...! ALL I GOT FOR MY TROUBLE WAS A NONSENSE-SONG--!
BUT THAT TRANSIT COP CAN HANDLE THE "CROONER"--
--WHILE I GO AFTER THE OTHERS!
WITH THAT, HE FORMS HIMSELF INTO A "PAPER" AIRPLANE...
...AND IS GONE!
NUTS--UNLESS MY LUCK IMPROVES--AND FAST--
--I'M GONNA BE GLOWING IN THE DARK IN HACKENSACK...!
5

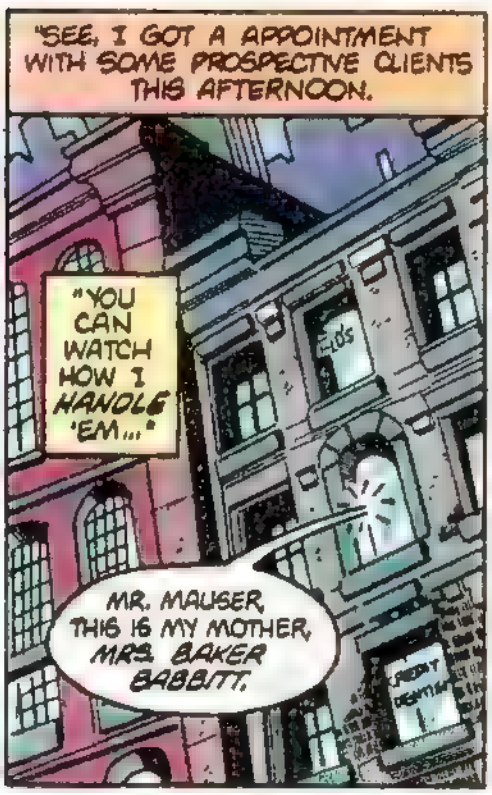

MOMENTS LATER ON A PARKING DECK ATOP THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL...
LOOK OUT!
FLYIN' MOTORCYCLES?!
OMIGOD--PETER FONDA'S MAKING MOVIES AGAIN!
THEY'RE CORNERED! NO WAY THEY CAN GET BACK TO THE STREET BEFORE I INTERCEPT THEM!
SQUEEEAL!
BUT I CAN'T FIRE ENERGY BOLTS HERE--TOO MANY PEOPLE--!
SO...FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: GETTING THOSE GUYS OFF THEIR CYCLES!
LET'S SEE... A JOLT OF KINETIC ENERGY TO THOSE PARKED CARS...
..WHICH CAUSES THEM TO MOVE--WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A KEY IN A SINGLE IGNITION!
DEFTLY, E-MAN MANEUVERS ONE CAR, THEN ANOTHER--LITERALLY STACKING THEM... DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE SPEEDING CYCLISTS!
HEY, SAMMY--WHAT'S HE DOIN'?!
FORGET HIM! JUST KEEP YER EYES ON THE--
--ROAD.
KWHAM.
6

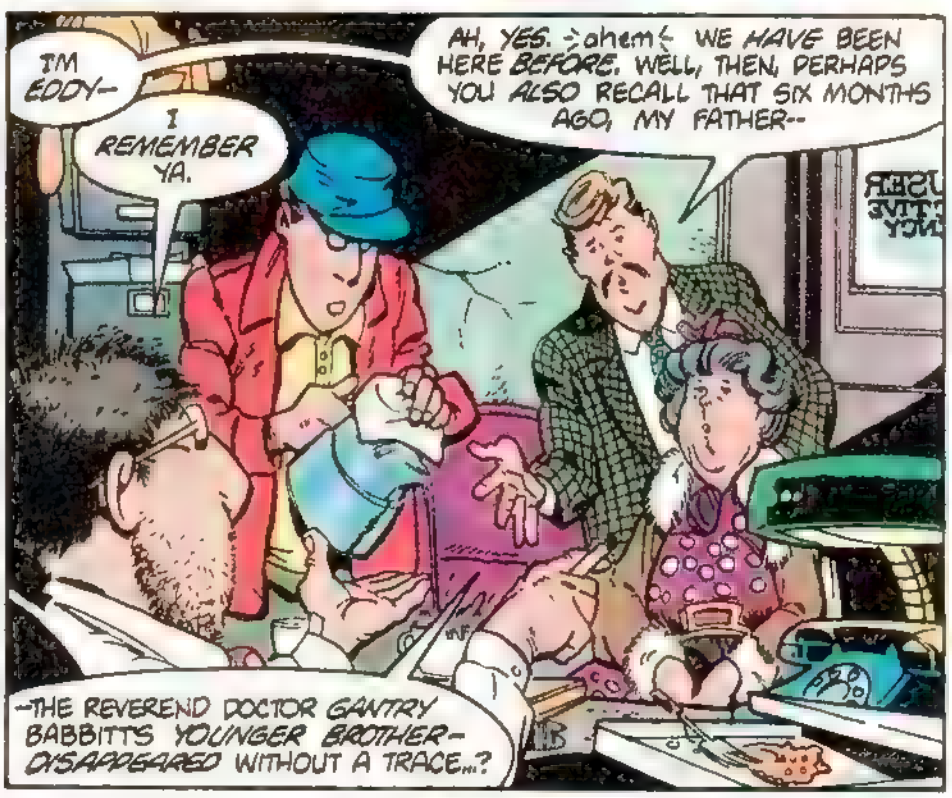

AND ON THE OBSERVATION DECK BEYOND THE PARKING AREA...
LOOK, TIMMY! THE FLYING WALLENDAS!
MA, THE FLYING WALLENDAS DON'T CARRY GUNS. THOSE GUYS LOOK LIKE CROOKS.
THEY MUST BE... SEE? E-MAN'S CHASIN' 'EM!
A CHASE WHICH LEADS DOWNSTAIRS TO THE MAIN CONCOURSE--
--OF A TERMINAL STILL UNDER RENOVATION.
HMM--NO WORKMEN ON THAT SCAFFOLD...
...WHICH MEANS I CAN BLAST ONE OF THE SUPPORTS WITH AN ENERGY-BOLT...
KHOOM
...AND DROP THE WHOLE THING ON THE CROOKS' HEADS--!
BUT SUDDENLY...
THAT WEIRD COSTUMED FELLOW--AIMING" THAT PENDANT AT ME--?
MUST BE SOME KIND OF WEAPON--!
WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND WHO--WORRY ABOUT "WHAT" I AM... SPECIFICALLY YOUR DOWNFALL!
7

LOOK AT ME, E-MAN! YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE STAYING CONSCIOUS NOW, AREN'T YOU?
YOUR VISION'S GETTING BLURRY... YOUR BRAIN'S GETTING FUZZY...
HE--HE'S TRYING TO HYPNOTIZE ME, OR SOMETHING--
--AND--gasp!--IT'S WORKING! MY BRAIN IS DEADENING...
WOOZILY, E-MAN STAGGERS BACKWARD--UNDER THE SCAFFOLD--JUST AS...
LOOK OUT! IT'S COLLAPSIN'!
BONK
KLUNKETA-KLUNKETA
YESSIR, MAYBE I DID BOTCH IT THAT TIME ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE... BUT NOT NOW!
THAT "THOUGHTMASTER"... LOOKS VAGUELY FAMILIAR...!
AND SOMETHING HE SAID... ABOUT A BRIDGE..RINGS A BELL...
BUT SOON THE ONLY RINGING BELLS ARE INSIDE E-MAN'S HEAD, AS--KAYOED BY A HEAVY STEEL PIPE--HE FALLS! BUT JUST THEN...
NUTS AGAIN! THE COPS!
WITH THAT, THOUGHTMASTER DUCKS OUT ONTO THE STREET, DESPERATE FOR A MANHOLE--AND THE SAFETY OF THE SEWERS...
THOUGHTMASTER TO OPERATIONS CENTRAL...
I-I'M AFRAID I HAVE FAILED TO CAPTURE E-MAN, SIR...
YOU WHAAAT?!
8

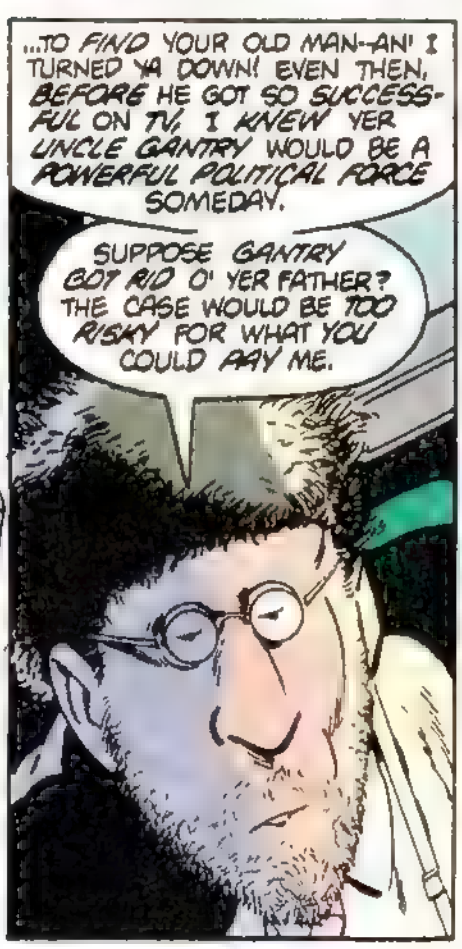
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS..?
BUT SIR-- DON'T MY SUCCESSES COUNT FOR ANYTHING?
WHAT SUCCESSES?
WELL... I DISCOVERED E-MAN'S SECRET IDENTITY... TRACKED DOWN ALEC TRONN'S ADDRESS...
...AND FLUSHED HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN!
AND DIDN'T HE RETURN FROM THE "UP WITH GOD" RALLY VIA THE LINCOLN TUNNEL, JUST LIKE I SAID?
AT LEAST WHAT I DID TO HIM WILL LAND HIM IN THE HOSPITAL. SO AS SOON AS I FIND OUT WHERE HE'S BEEN TAKEN--
SCIENTIST EXPLODES MYTH OF GATORS IN SEWERS!!
OTHER AGENTS WILL DO THAT. YOU ARE GOING TO WRAP UP THE BAKER BABBITT CASE NOW.
I WANT THAT FAMILY FOUND AND NEU-TRALIZED! OPERATIONS CENTRAL, OUT=klik=
THE TIME: 10:00 THAT SAME MORNING. THE PLACE: THE "BI-COASTAL AIRWAYS" TERMINAL AT KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...
SO, YER GIRLFRIEND'S GOIN' BACK TO SCHOOL IN CALIFORNIA, HUH, KID?
YA SURE YOU DON'T WANNA GO, TOO?
POSITIVE. I QUIT UCLA AND DECIDED TO STAY IN NEW YORK. DEBBE UNDERSTANDS.
BI COA
'BYE, DEBBE!
'BYE DONNIE. AN', LIKE, HAVE A, Y'KNOW, BITCHEN LIFE-STYLE, MAN.
MY PARENTS ARE UPSET, THOUGH.
THEY WANTED ME TO BE A CAA IN BEVERLY HILLS, NOT A PRIVATE EYE LIKE MY UNCLE.
RIGHT. IF I KNOW MY SISTER...
...SHE'S WONDERIN' WHAT WENT WRONG WITH YER UPBRINGIN'--BLAMIN' HERSELF...
ACTUALLY, NO, UNC. SHE BLAMES YOU.
ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH SHRUBBERY
9


SHE THINKS YOU "CORRUPTED" ME.
YOU JUST TURNED 18, RIGHT? SO NOW YOU'RE ON YER OWN.
KID, 'LONG AS I DON'T HAFTA SQUARE IT WITH MY SISTER AND THAT WIMP SHE MARRIED...
...YOU CAN START "LEARNIN' THE ROPES" OF THE P.I. BUSINESS TODAY!
9MM

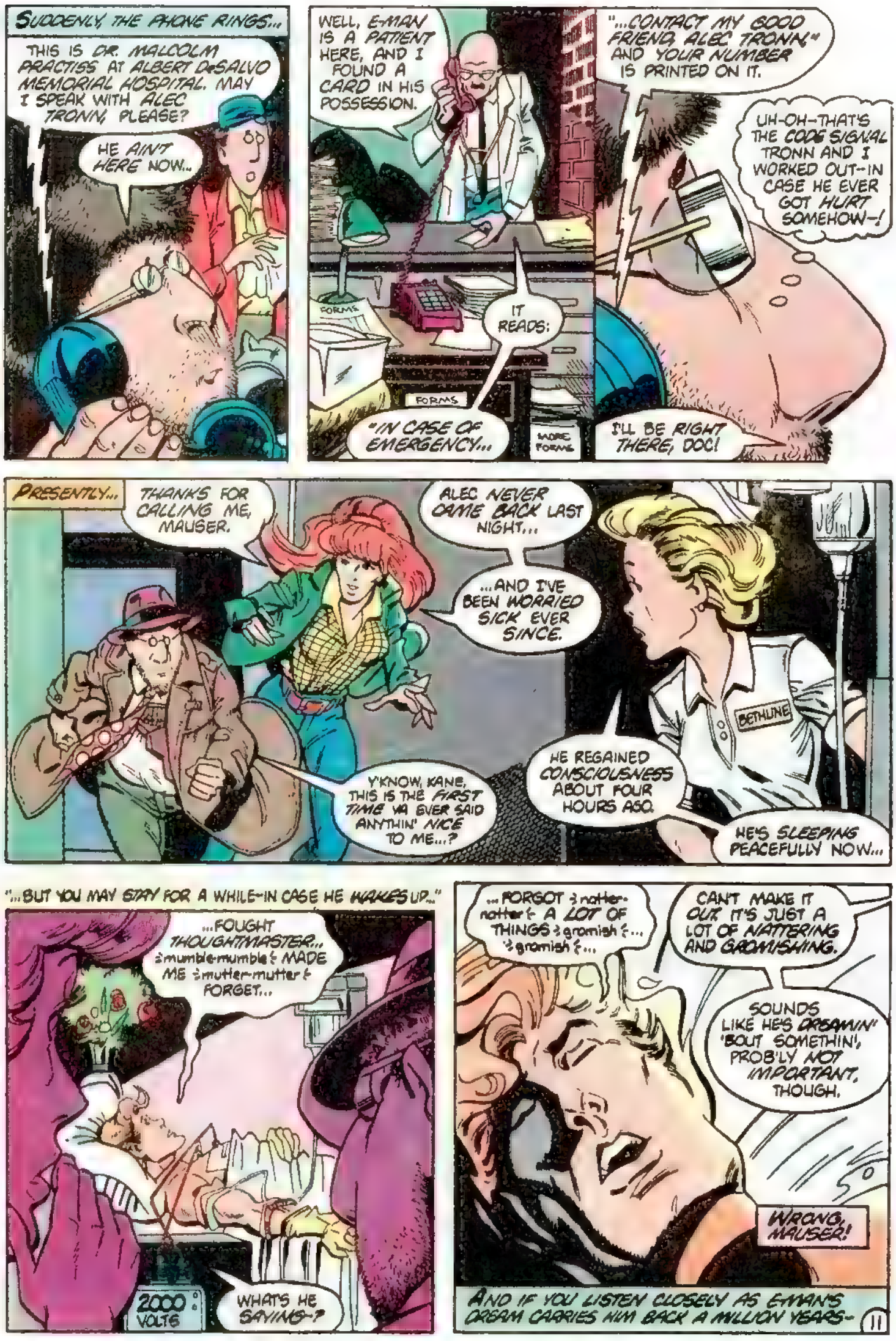

"SEE, I GOT A APPOINTMENT WITH SOME PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS THIS AFTERNOON.
"YOU CAN WATCH HOW I HANDLE 'EM..."
MR. MAUSER, THIS IS MY MOTHER, MRS. BAKER BABBITT.

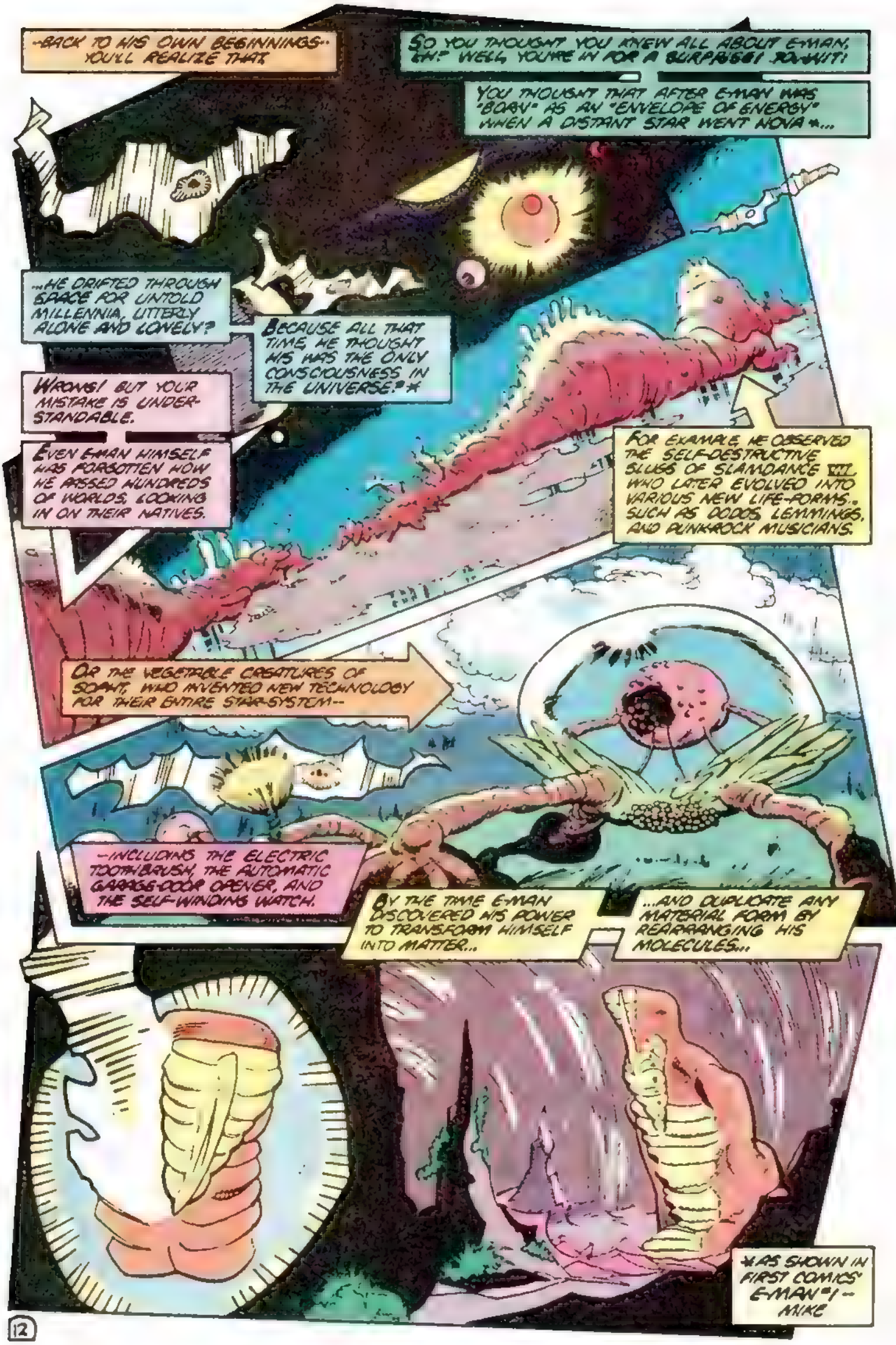

I'M EDDY--
I REMEMBER YA.
AH, YES. :ahem: WE HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE. WELL, THEN, PERHAPS YOU ALSO RECALL THAT SIX MONTHS AGO, MY FATHER--
--THE REVEREND DOCTOR GANTRY BABBITT'S YOUNGER BROTHER-- DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE...?

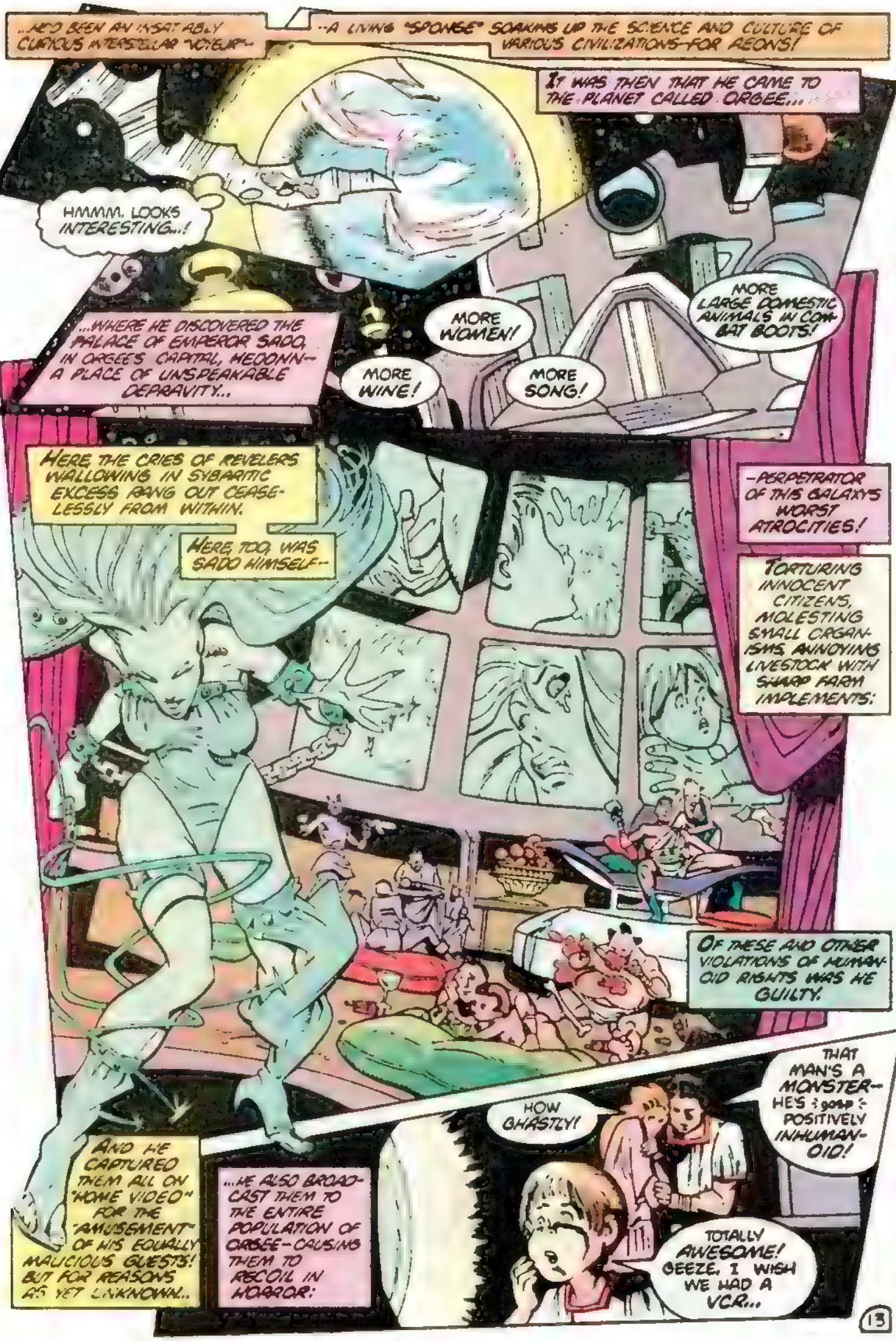
AT THE TIME, HE WAS TRAVELING ON BUSINESS FOR UNCLE GANTRY'S "MINISTRY," THE LITTLE CHURCH OF THE STRICT OBSERVANCE.
BACK THEN, MY PARENTS AND I RAN THE CHURCH'S MEDIA OFFICES HERE IN NEW YORK--
--AN' YA TRIED TO HIRE ME...
10


...TO FIND YOUR OLD MAN--AN' I TURNED YA DOWN! EVEN THEN, BEFORE HE GOT SO SUCCESSFUL ON TV, I KNEW YER UNCLE GANTRY WOULD BE A POWERFUL POLITICAL FORCE SOMEDAY.
SUPPOSE GANTRY GOT RID O' YER FATHER? THE CASE WOULD BE TOO RISKY FOR WHAT YOU COULD PAY ME.

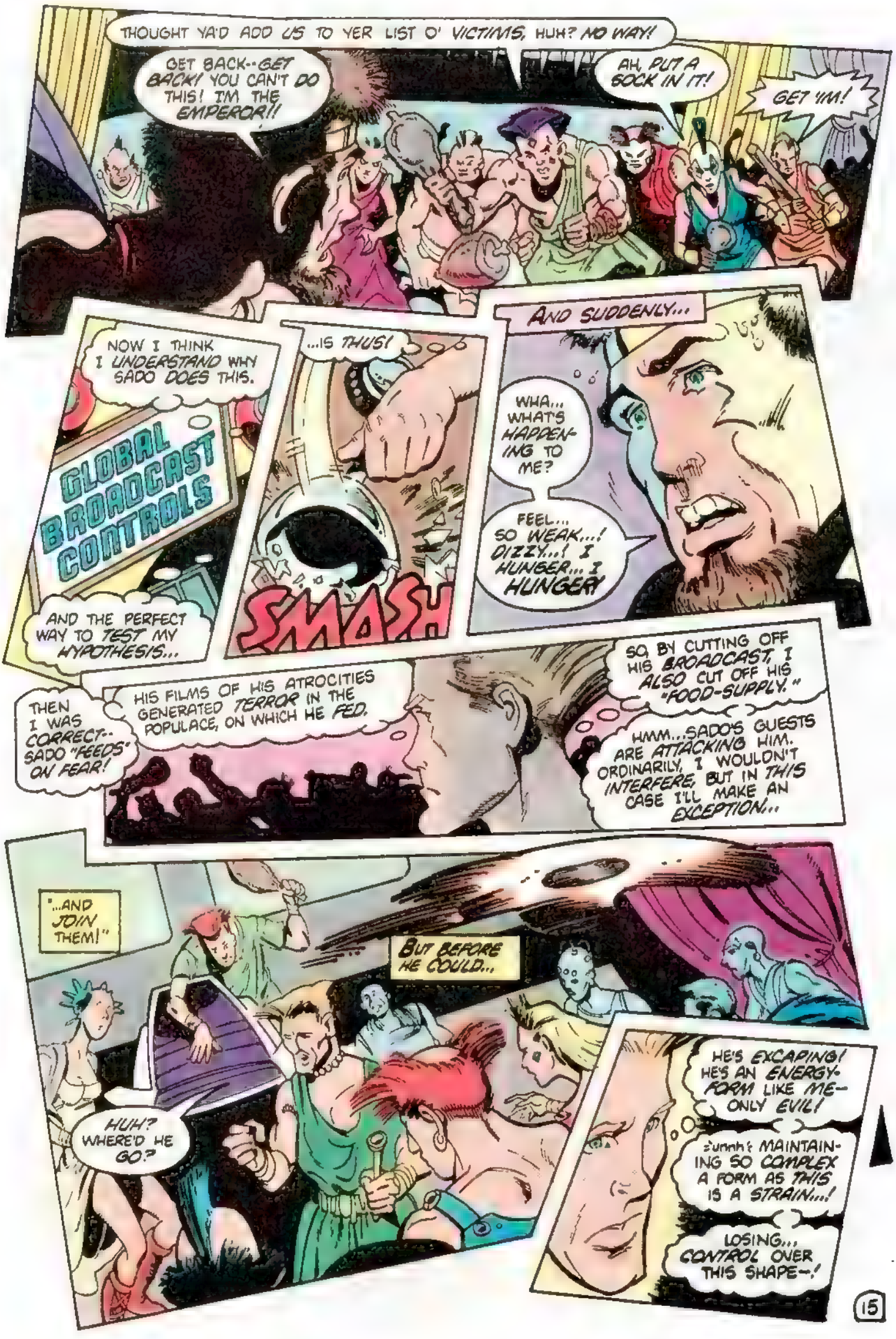
BEFORE WE QUIT THE CHURCH, WE GOT RICH OFF IT, TOO--AND NOW WE CAN AFFORD MUCH MORE.
OKAY, YOU'RE ON.
HEY, KID, IF YOU'RE GONNA WORK WITH ME, YA GOTTA STOP BEIN' SUCH A SLOB...


SUDDENLY, THE PHONE RINGS...
THIS IS DR. MALCOLM PRACTISS AT ALBERT DeSALVO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. MAY I SPEAK WITH ALEC TRONN, PLEASE?
HE AIN'T HERE NOW...
WELL, E-MAN IS A PATIENT HERE, AND I FOUND A CARD IN HIS POSSESSION.
"...CONTACT MY GOOD FRIEND, ALEC TRONN," AND YOUR NUMBER IS PRINTED ON IT.
UH-OH-THAT'S THE CODE SIGNAL TRONN AND I WORKED OUT--IN CASE HE EVER GOT HURT SOMEHOW-!
FORMS
IT READS:
FORMS
"IN CASE OF EMERGENCY...
MORE FORMS
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, DOC!
PRESENTLY...
THANKS FOR CALLING ME, MAUSER.
ALEC NEVER CAME BACK LAST NIGHT...
...AND I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK EVER SINCE.
BETHLINE
Y'KNOW, KANE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YA EVER SAID ANYTHIN' NICE TO ME...?
HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT FOUR HOURS AGO.
HE'S SLEEPING PEACEFULLY NOW...
"...BUT YOU MAY STAY FOR A WHILE--IN CASE HE WAKES UP..."
...FOUGHT THOUGHTMASTER... ÷mumble-mumble÷ MADE ME ÷mutter-mutter÷ FORGET...
2000 VOLTS
WHAT'S HE SAYING-?
...FORGOT ÷natter-natter÷ A LOT OF THINGS ÷gromish÷... ÷gromish÷...
CAN'T MAKE IT OUT. IT'S JUST A LOT OF NATTERING AND GROMISHING.
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S DREAMIN' 'BOUT SOMETHIN', PROB'LY NOT IMPORTANT, THOUGH.
WRONG, MAUSER!
AND IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY AS E-MAN'S DREAM CARRIES HIM BACK A MILLION YEARS-
11


--BACK TO HIS OWN BEGINNINGS-- YOU'LL REALIZE THAT
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW ALL ABOUT E-MAN, EH? WELL YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE! JOHNNY!
YOU THOUGHT THAT AFTER E-MAN WAS "BORN" AS AN "ENVELOPE OF ENERGY" WHEN A DISTANT STAR WENT NOVA *...
...HE DRIFTED THROUGH SPACE FOR UNTOLD MILLENNIA, UTTERLY ALONE AND LONELY?
BECAUSE ALL THAT TIME, HE THOUGHT HIS WAS THE ONLY CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE UNIVERSE!*
WRONG! BUT YOUR MISTAKE IS UNDER-STANDABLE.
EVEN E-MAN HIMSELF HAS FORGOTTEN HOW HE PASSED HUNDREDS OF WORLDS, LOOKING IN ON THEIR NATIVES.
FOR EXAMPLE, HE OBSERVED THE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE SLUGS OF SLAMDANCE VII, WHO LATER EVOLVED INTO VARIOUS NEW LIFE-FORMS.. SUCH AS DODOS, LEMMINGS, AND PUNKROCK MUSICIANS.
OR THE VEGETABLE CASATURES OF SOPHT, WHO INVENTED NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THEIR ENTIRE STAR-SYSTEM--
--INCLUDING THE ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH, THE AUTOMATIC GARAGE-DOOR OPENER, AND THE SELF-WINDING WATCH.
BY THE TIME E-MAN DISCOVERED HIS POWER TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO MATTER...
...AND DUPLICATE ANY MATERIAL FORM BY REARRANGING HIS MOLECULES...
*AS SHOWN IN FIRST COMICS' E-MAN #1 -- MIKE


...HE'D BEEN AN INSATIABLY CURIOUS INTERSTELLAR "VOYEUR"--
--A LIVING "SPONGE" SOAKING UP THE SCIENCE AND CULTURE OF VARIOUS CIVILIZATIONS--FOR AEONS!
IT WAS THEN THAT HE CAME TO THE PLANET CALLED ORGEE...
HMMM. LOOKS INTERESTING...!
...WHERE HE DISCOVERED THE PALACE OF EMPEROR SADO, IN ORGEE'S CAPITAL, HEDONN--A PLACE OF UNSPEAKABLE DEPRAVITY...
MORE WOMEN!
MORE WINE!
MORE SONG!
MORE LARGE DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN COMBAT BOOTS!
HERE THE CRIES OF REVELERS WALLOWING IN SYBARITIC EXCESS RANG OUT CEASELESSLY FROM WITHIN.
HERE, TOO, WAS SADO HIMSELF--
--PERPETRATOR OF THIS GALAXY'S WORST ATROCITIES!
TORTURING INNOCENT CITIZENS, MOLESTING SMALL ORGANISMS, ANNOYING LIVESTOCK WITH SHARP FARM IMPLEMENTS:
OF THESE AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMANOID RIGHTS WAS HE GUILTY.
AND HE CAPTURED THEM ALL ON "HOME VIDEO" FOR THE "AMUSEMENT" OF HIS EQUALLY MALICIOUS GUESTS! BUT FOR REASONS AS YET UNKNOWN...
...HE ALSO BROADCAST THEM TO THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF ORGEE--CAUSING THEM TO RECOIL IN HORROR:
HOW GHASTLY!
THAT MAN'S A MONSTER--HE'S [gasp] POSITIVELY INHUMANOID!
TOTALLY AWESOME! GEEZE, I WISH WE HAD A VCR...

FLOATING NEAR SADO, THE FUTURE E-MAN SENSED THE EMPEROR'S FEROCITY...
YES...YES...! I AM TERRORIZING THIS ENTIRE PLANET! I CAN TASTE IT-- YUM-YUM!
...AND HAD A REVELATION:
MY...MY PARTICLES ARE IN FLUX!
THERE IS TURBULENCE AMONG MY ELECTRONS!
AND HE COULD SENSE SADO GROW STRONGER, MORE VIGOROUS, AS EACH DISPLAY OF ATROCITY "OUT-GROSSED" THE LAST.
HE THEN ASSUMED A FORM ENABLING HIM TO PASS UNNOTICED AMONG THE REVELERS...
WHAT ARE THESE STIRRINGS-- EMOTIONS?
YES: HIS FIRST EMOTIONS:
REVULSION AND HORROR!
DISGUSTED YET TRANSFIXED BY THE OBSCENITIES ON THE SCREENS, HE NOTICED TOO LATE A REVELER'S OUTTHRUST LEG. HE TRIPPED...
...AND FELL ONTO THE VIDEO-MONITORS' CONTROL-CONSOLE-
GUESTKILLERS READY
EGIN ACTIVATION CODE SEQUENCE
-ACTIVATING SADO'S MOST SECRET AND MALEVOLENTLY INVENTIVE "AMUSEMENT!"
OKAY, WHO EXPOSED THOSE SPIKES? WHO'S THE PARTY-POOPER?
HEY-LOOKADAT! RAZOR-SHARP STEEL SPIKES--
--POPPIN' OUTTA A CONCEALED RECESS IN THE CEILIN'!
OH! NOW WE GET IT--THE CLIMAX TO THE EVENING'S "ENTERTAINMENT"...
...WAS SUPPOSED TA BE OUR DEATHS!


THOUGHT YA'D ADD US TO YER LIST O' VICTIMS, HUH? NO WAY!
GET BACK--GET BACK! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! I'M THE EMPEROR!!
AH, PUT A SOCK IN IT!
GET 'IM!
AND SUDDENLY...
WHA... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
FEEL... SO WEAK...! DIZZY...! I HUNGER... I HUNGER
NOW I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY SADO DOES THIS.
GLOBAL BROADCAST CONTROLS
AND THE PERFECT WAY TO TEST MY HYPOTHESIS...
...IS THUS!
SMASH
SO, BY CUTTING OFF HIS BROADCAST, I ALSO CUT OFF HIS "FOOD-SUPPLY."
HMM...SADO'S GUESTS ARE ATTACKING HIM. ORDINARILY, I WOULDN'T INTERFERE, BUT IN THIS CASE I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION...
HIS FILMS OF HIS ATROCITIES GENERATED TERROR IN THE POPULACE, ON WHICH HE FED.
THEN I WAS CORRECT.. SADO "FEEDS" ON FEAR!
"...AND JOIN THEM!"
BUT BEFORE HE COULD...
HUH? WHERE'D HE GO?
HE'S ESCAPING! HE'S AN ENERGY-FORM LIKE ME--ONLY EVIL!
UNNH! MAINTAINING SO COMPLEX A FORM AS THIS IS A STRAIN...!
LOSING... CONTROL OVER THIS SHAPE--!

THE NEXT THING HE KNEW, HE WAS IN DEEP SPACE...
EH...? HOW DID I GET HERE?
WAIT--NOW I REMEMBER:
HE HAD REVERTED TO ENERGY JUST AS HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS..
...AND AWOKE ONLY AFTER DRIFTING AWAY FROM ORGEE.
IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE STAR-CRUISER.
...NOT REALIZING THAT ONE MORE MEANT ADDITIONAL MASS--FOR WHICH THE SHIP'S GUIDANCE SYSTEMS COULDN'T COMPENSATE!
THE RESULT: A CRASH-LANDING ON EARTH!
TRAVELING THROUGH HIGH-TENSION WIRES, HE GOT TRAPPED IN A LIGHT BULB IN A DRESSING ROOM...
...BELONGING TO ONE NOVA KANE, EXOTIC DANCER AT THE MOIST PALMS CLUB.
WHEN SHE SET HIM FREE, HE ASSUMED HUMAN FORM AND EXPLAINED WHAT HE WAS--
--AND "ALEC TRONIN" WAS... WELL... "INVENTED!"
AFTER LIVING FOR A TIME AS NOVA'S (PLATONIC) ROOM-MATE, HE BEGAN TO READ SUPERHERO ADVENTURE COMICS...
RAISE ABORIGINE HEADHUNTERS AT HOME!
HE FOUND HIS CALLING..
...AND THE POWER-PACKED PALADIN CALLED E-MAN BURST (LITERALLY) ONTO THE SCENE!

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IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE STAR-CRUISER.

SHE HAD COME FROM THE SIRIUS SYSTEM TO TEST DEADLY WEAPONS ON PLUTO.

CURIOUS ABOUT HER OCCUPANTS, HE DRIFTED ABOARD...

...AND FOUND HER "CREWED" EXCLUSIVELY BY SENTIENT ROBOTS, ALL FUNCTIONING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A HUGE, TELEPATHIC BRAIN.

SO AS TO OBSERVE UNOBTRUSIVELY, HE IMITATED ONE OF THE ROBOTS...

...NOT REALIZING THAT ONE MORE MEANT ADDITIONAL MASS--FOR WHICH THE SHIP'S GUIDANCE SYSTEMS COULDN'T COMPENSATE!

THE RESULT: A CRASH-LANDING ON EARTH!

AS DOES EVERY SUPERHERO, E-MAN SOON ENCOUNTERED HIS OWN SHARE OF PERSONAL ANTAGONISTS, SUCH AS THE BRAIN FROM SIRIUS--

--STILL TICKED-OFF OVER HAVING BEEN STRANDED ON EARTH...

TRAVELING THROUGH HIGH-TENSION WIRES, HE GOT TRAPPED IN A LIGHT BULB IN A DRESSING ROOM...

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...AND UTILITIES MAGNATE SAMUEL BOAR--

--WHOSE MURDEROUS ANDROID, THE BATTERY, AIDED HIM IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO MONOPOLIZE ALL THE WORLD'S ENERGY!

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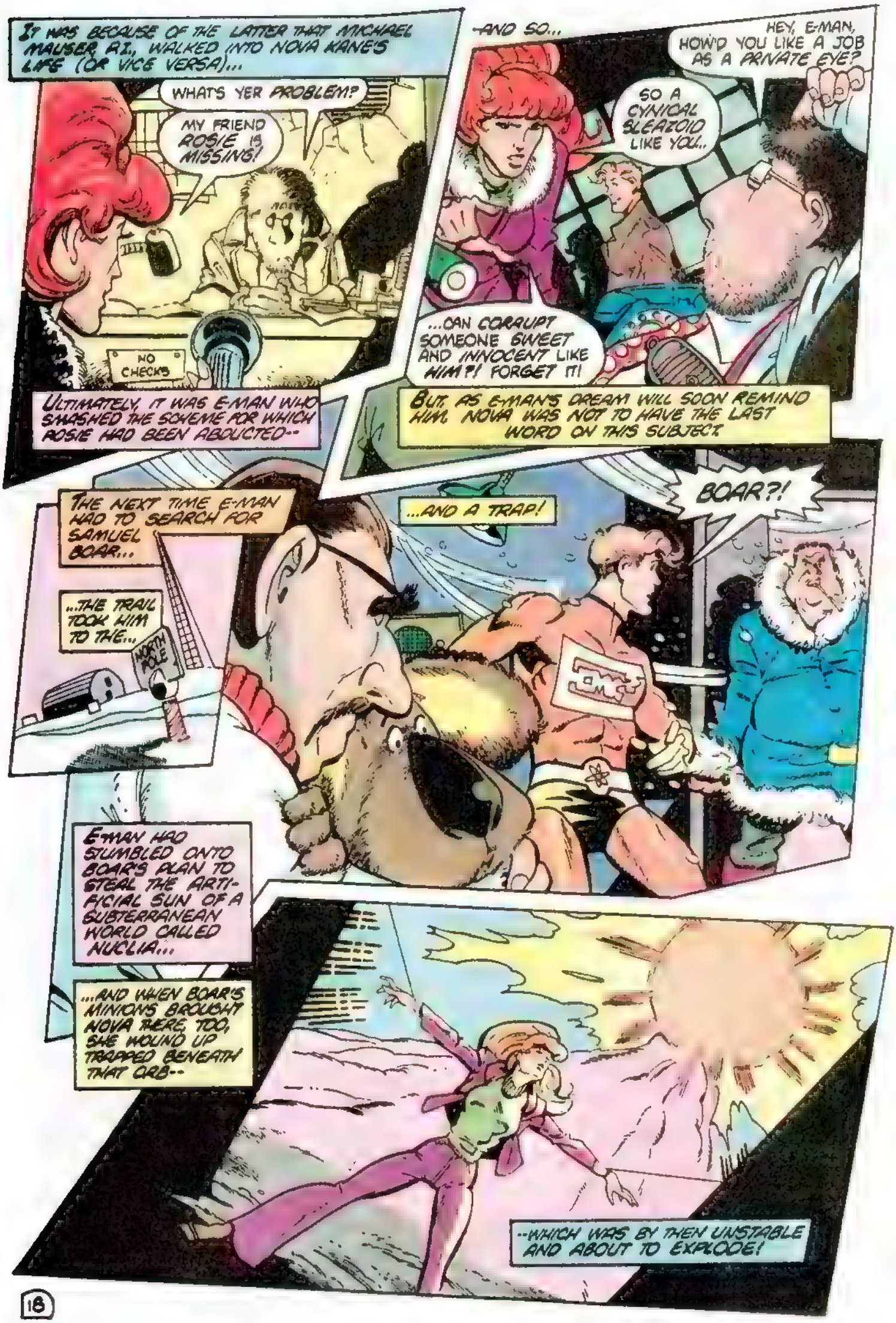
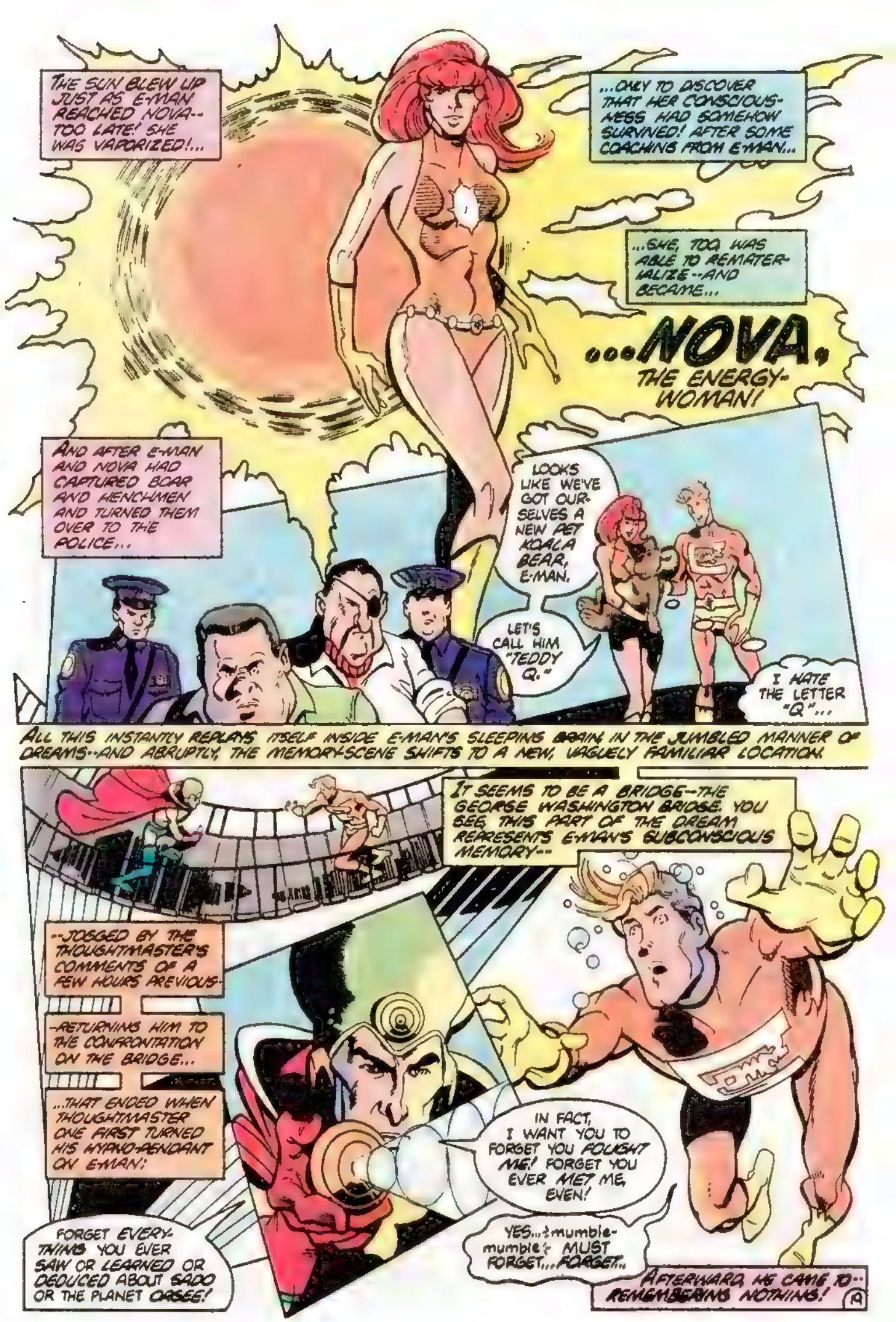
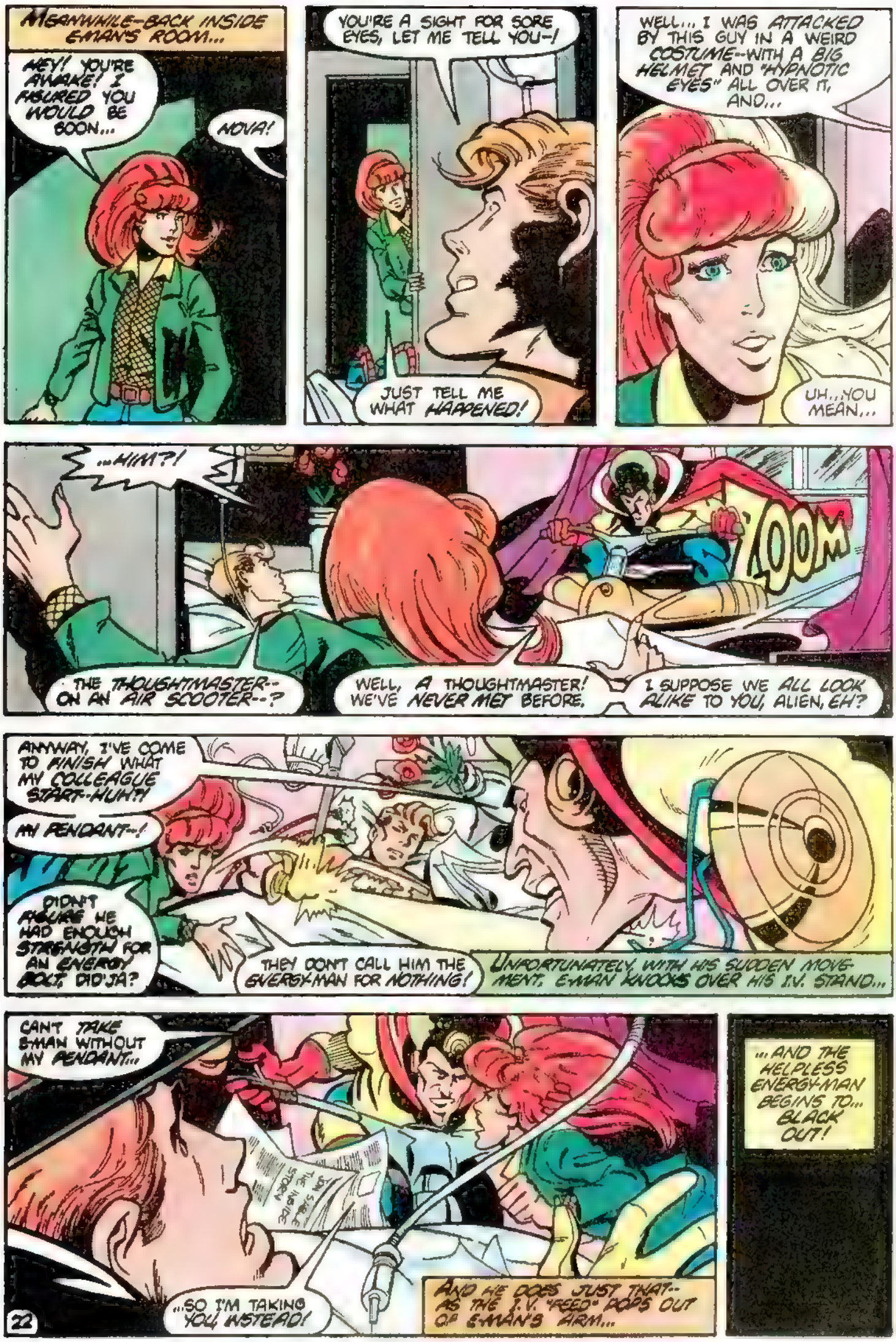
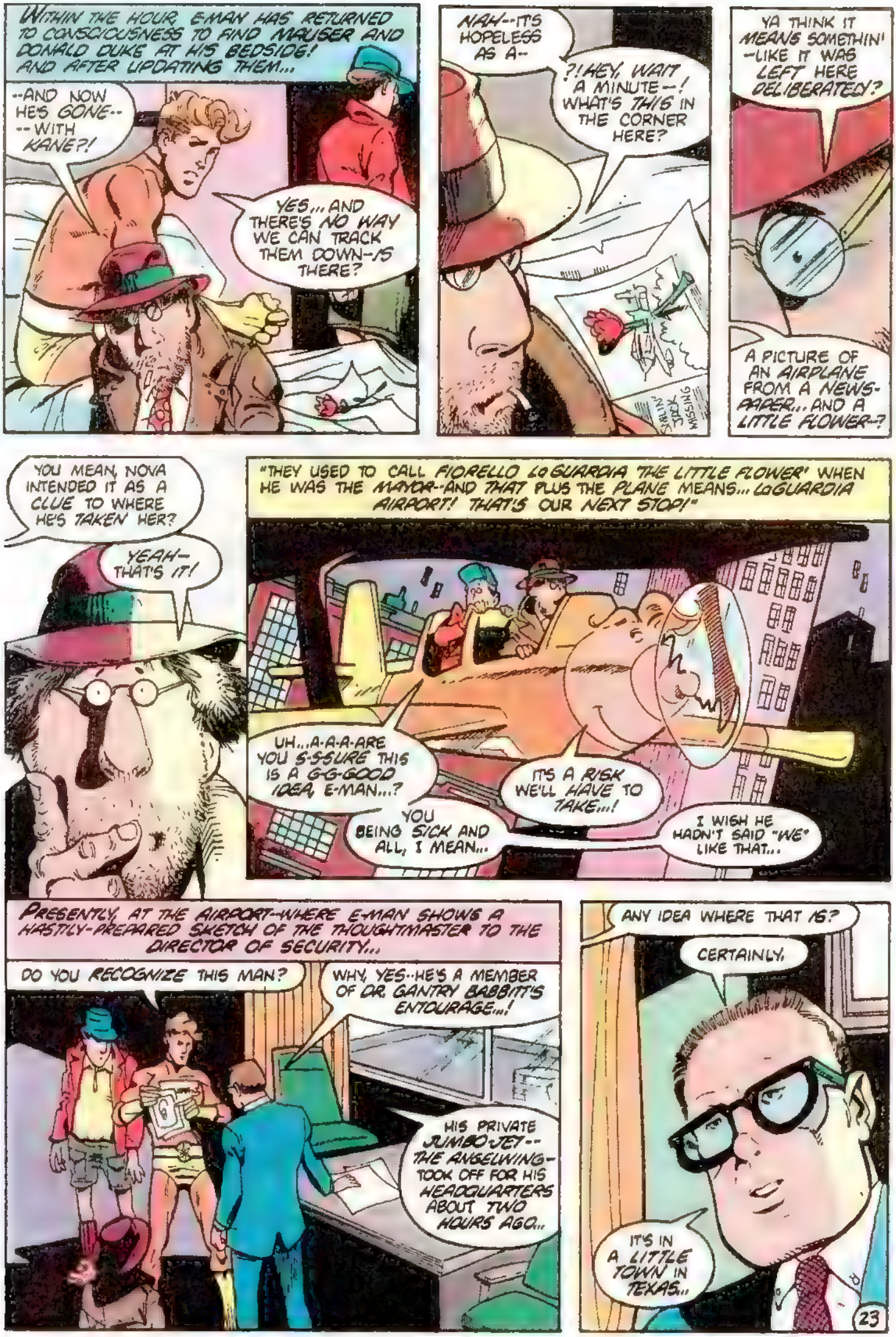

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE LATTER THAT MICHAEL MAUSER JR., WALKED INTO NOVA KANE'S LIFE (OR VICE VERSA)...
WHAT'S YER PROBLEM?
MY FRIEND ROSIE IS MISSING!
NO CHECKS
ULTIMATELY, IT WAS E-MAN WHO SMASHED THE SCHEME FOR WHICH ROSIE HAD BEEN ABDUCTED--
-AND SO...
HEY, E-MAN, HOW'D YOU LIKE A JOB AS A PRIVATE EYE?
SO A CYNICAL SLEAZOID LIKE YOU..
...CAN CORRUPT SOMEONE SWEET AND INNOCENT LIKE HIM?! FORGET IT!
BUT, AS E-MAN'S DREAM WILL SOON REMIND HIM, NOVA WAS NOT TO HAVE THE LAST WORD ON THIS SUBJECT.
THE NEXT TIME E-MAN HAD TO SEARCH FOR SAMUEL BOAR...
...THE TRAIL TOOK HIM TO THE...
NORTH POLE
...AND A TRAP!
BOAR?!
E-MAN HAD STUMBLED ONTO BOAR'S PLAN TO STEAL THE ARTIFICIAL SUN OF A SUBTERRANEAN WORLD CALLED NUCLIA...
...AND WHEN BOAR'S MINIONS BROUGHT NOVA THERE, TOO, SHE WOUND UP TRAPPED BENEATH THAT ORB--
--WHICH WAS BY THEN UNSTABLE AND ABOUT TO EXPLODE!

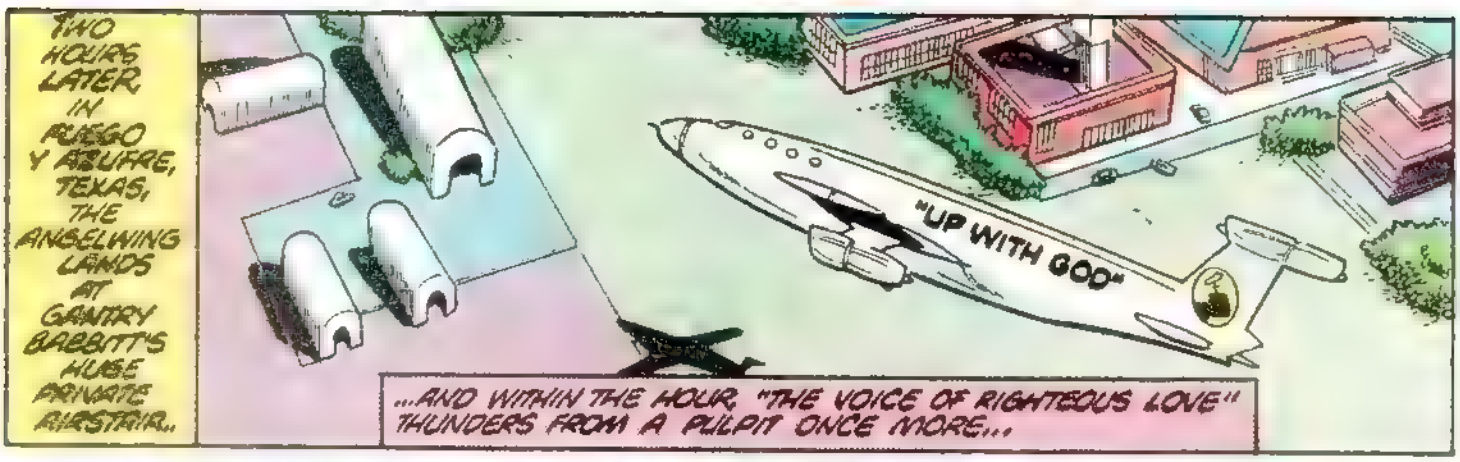

THE SUN BLEW UP JUST AS E-MAN REACHED NOVA--TOO LATE! SHE WAS VAPORIZED!...
...ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT HER CONSCIOUSNESS HAD SOMEHOW SURVIVED! AFTER SOME COACHING FROM E-MAN...
...SHE, TOO, WAS ABLE TO REMATERIALIZE--AND BECAME...
...NOVA, THE ENERGY-WOMAN!
AND AFTER E-MAN AND NOVA HAD CAPTURED BOAR AND HENCHMEN AND TURNED THEM OVER TO THE POLICE...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A NEW PET KOALA BEAR, E-MAN.
LET'S CALL HIM "TEDDY Q."
I HATE THE LETTER "Q"...
ALL THIS INSTANTLY REPLAYS ITSELF INSIDE E-MAN'S SLEEPING BRAIN IN THE JUMBLED MANNER OF DREAMS--AND ABRUPTLY, THE MEMORY-SCENE SHIFTS TO A NEW, VAGUELY FAMILIAR LOCATION.
IT SEEMS TO BE A BRIDGE--THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE. YOU SEE, THIS PART OF THE DREAM REPRESENTS E-MAN'S SUBCONSCIOUS MEMORY--
--JOGGED BY THE THOUGHTMASTER'S COMMENTS OF A FEW HOURS PREVIOUS-
-RETURNING HIM TO THE CONFRONTATION ON THE BRIDGE...
...THAT ENDED WHEN THOUGHTMASTER ONE FIRST TURNED HIS HYPNO-PENDANT ON E-MAN:
FORGET EVERYTHING YOU EVER SAW OR LEARNED OR DEDUCED ABOUT SADO OR THE PLANET ORBEE!
IN FACT, I WANT YOU TO FORGET YOU EVER KNEW ME! FORGET YOU EVER MET ME, EVEN!
YES...↕mumble-mumble↕ MUST FORGET...FORGET...
AFTERWARD, HE CAME TO--REMEMBERING NOTHING!
9

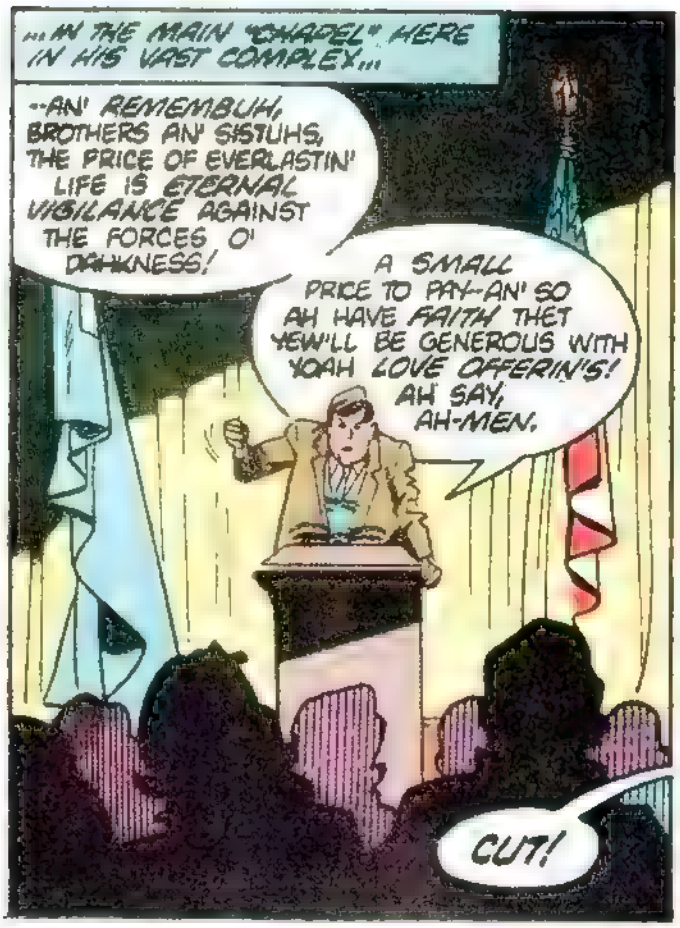
THE THOUGHTMASTER HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL--BUT FOR REASONS AS YET UNKNOWN, HIS BOSS DOUBTED THAT SUCCESS!
BUSINESS IS BOOMIN' LATELY, TRONN-- I COULD REALLY USE A PARTNER.
AN' THERE'LL BE PLENTY O' ROOM FOR ANOTHER DESK IN MY NEW OFFICES.
AND SO THE THOUGHTMASTER TRIED AGAIN--EARLIER THIS MORNING--AND INADVERTANTLY UNDID HIS OWN WORK!
NOW THE DREAM FLASHES FORWARD ONE MONTH.
KANE'LL HATE THE IDEA, BUT SO WHAT?
I GUESS I SHOULD DO SOMETHING WHEN I'M NOT CHASING CRIMINALS OR RESCUING PEOPLE...
OKAY. THIS TIME YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL.
LIMBURGER
MAUSER WAS RIGHT. NOVA DID HATE THE IDEA...
...FOR SHE REMAINED PROTECTIVE OF ALEC-- WHICH WAS WHY SHE NEVER WANTED HIM TO MOVE OUT! AND SO...
AT LEAST THERE'S ONE GOOD THING ABOUT YOUR WORKING FOR MAUSER--
RIGHT! WITH THE EXTRA MONEY I'M BRINGING IN, WE CAN AFFORD A BIGGER APART-MENT!
THIS END UP!
FRAGILE
BUT WITHOUT ALEC ON THE COUCH EVERY NIGHT, NOVA COULD RESUME HER ACTIVE SOCIAL LIFE...
ALMOST EVERY NIGHT, ANOTHER DATE..! WITH A DIFFERENT MAN..! BUT WHY DOES THAT... BOTHER ME?
WHAT IS THIS EMOTION? COULD I HAVE... FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER...?
HE HAD--AND HOPED THAT SHE COULD SOMEDAY LOVE HIM..

...ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY NOW SHARED A DISTINCTIVE COMMONALITY: THEY WERE BOTH ENERGY BEINGS.
BUT THIS WAS NOT TO BE. SOON THEREAFTER, THE ENERGY DUO ENCOUNTERED THE INVENTOR OF A STRANGE DEVICE CALLED THE MUTANT ENERGIZER.
ENDANGERED IN THE COURSE OF THAT ADVENTURE, NOVA TOOK COVER INSIDE THE ENERGIZER--
-ACCIDENTALLY ACTIVATING IT-
-AND ITS RADIATION REVERSED HER TRANSFORMATION... AND SHE EMERGED A NORMAL, FLESH-AND-BLOOD WOMAN. *
*IN FIRST COMICS' E-MAN #3--MIKE
AND, TO E-MAN'S MIND, THE POSSIBILITIES HE'D ENVISIONED FOR THEIR RELATIONSHIP FADED LIKE... WELL, LIKE A DREAM.
Z
BUT OF ALL THIS, NOVA REMAINS IGNORANT. AND IF, IN HIS SLEEP E-MAN MUTTERS OF HIS LONGING FOR HER, SHE DOESN'T HEAR HIM.
HEY, KANE, I PICKED UP THAT PAPER YOU WANTED--?
Z
DAILY GNUS
CHIPMUNK MUGGER CAPTURE
HUH. IT'S A REGULAR SLUMBER-PARTY IN HERE.
HUH? WHA--?
I THINK HE'S GONNA BE OUT OF IT FOR HOURS YET. MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME.
NO, MAUSER, YOU GO ON AHEAD.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HIM ALONE--I'M TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
SUIT YOURSELF...
"...BUT THEY SAID HE'S OKAY. HE'S A BIG BOY, KANE."
BUT EVEN MAUSER MIGHT WORRY IF HE KNEW THEY'D BEEN FOLLOWED HERE...
THOUGHT-MASTER #5 TO OPERATIONS CENTRAL: HAVE LOCATED E-MAN -AM READY TO PROCEED...
21


MEANWHILE--BACK INSIDE E-MAN'S ROOM...
HEY! YOU'RE AWAKE! I FIGURED YOU WOULD BE SOON...
NOVA!
YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, LET ME TELL YOU--!
JUST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
WELL... I WAS ATTACKED BY THIS GUY IN A WEIRD COSTUME--WITH A BIG HELMET AND "HYPNOTIC EYES" ALL OVER IT, AND...
UH...YOU MEAN...
...HIM?!
ZOOM
THE THOUGHTMASTER--ON AN AIR SCOOTER--?
WELL, A THOUGHTMASTER! WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE.
I SUPPOSE WE ALL LOOK ALIKE TO YOU, ALIEN, EH?
ANYWAY, I'VE COME TO FINISH WHAT MY COLLEAGUE START--HUH?!
MY PENDANT--!
DIDN'T FIGURE HE HAD ENOUGH STRENGTH FOR AN ENERGY BOLT, DID'JA?
THEY DON'T CALL HIM THE ENERGY-MAN FOR NOTHING!
UNFORTUNATELY, WITH HIS SUDDEN MOVEMENT, E-MAN KNOCKS OVER HIS I.V. STAND...
CAN'T TAKE E-MAN WITHOUT MY PENDANT...
...SO I'M TAKING YOU, INSTEAD!
AND HE DOES JUST THAT... AS THE I.V. "FEED" POPS OUT OF E-MAN'S ARM...
...AND THE HELPLESS ENERGY-MAN BEGINS TO... BLACK OUT!
22

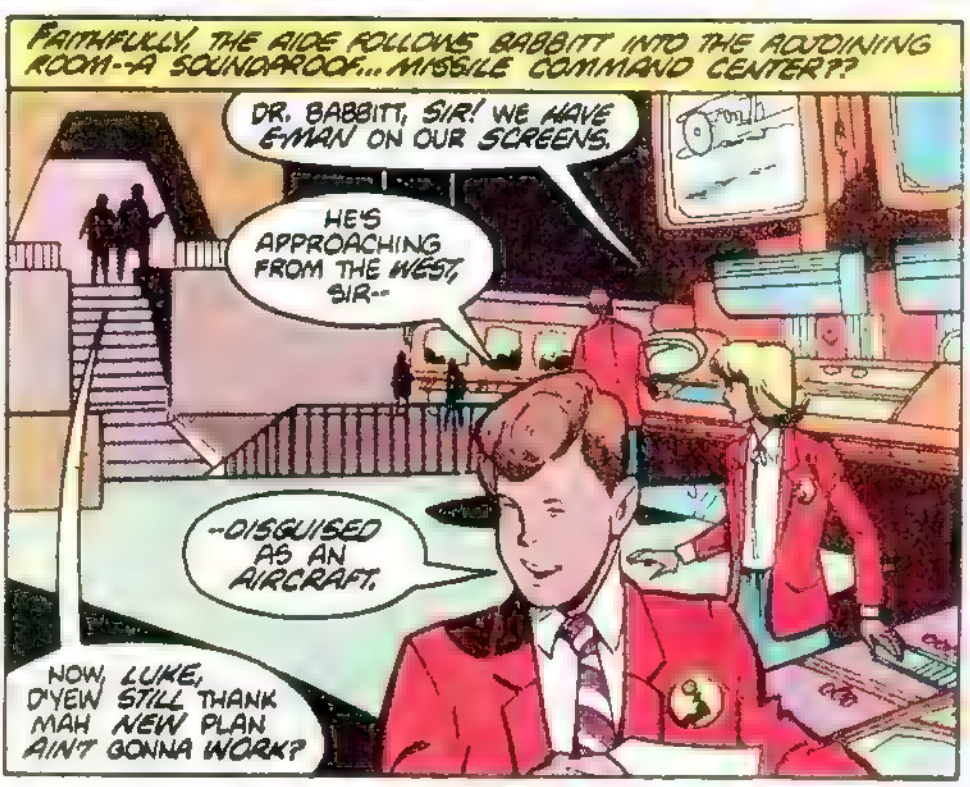

WITHIN THE HOUR, E-MAN HAS RETURNED TO CONSCIOUSNESS TO FIND MAUSER AND DONALD DUKE AT HIS BEDSIDE! AND AFTER UPDATING THEM...
--AND NOW HE'S GONE-- --WITH KANE?!
YES... AND THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TRACK THEM DOWN--IS THERE?
NAH--IT'S HOPELESS AS A--
?! HEY, WAIT A MINUTE--! WHAT'S THIS IN THE CORNER HERE?
MISSING
YA THINK IT MEANS SOMETHIN' --LIKE IT WAS LEFT HERE DELIBERATELY?
A PICTURE OF AN AIRPLANE FROM A NEWS-PAPER... AND A LITTLE FLOWER--?
YOU MEAN, NOVA INTENDED IT AS A CLUE TO WHERE HE'S TAKEN HER?
YEAH-- THAT'S IT!
"THEY USED TO CALL FIORELLO LaGUARDIA 'THE LITTLE FLOWER' WHEN HE WAS THE MAYOR--AND THAT PLUS THE PLANE MEANS... LaGUARDIA AIRPORT! THAT'S OUR NEXT STOP!"
UH...A-A-A-ARE YOU S-S-SURE THIS IS A G-G-GOOD IDEA, E-MAN...?
YOU BEING SICK AND ALL, I MEAN...
IT'S A RISK WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE...!
I WISH HE HADN'T SAID "WE" LIKE THAT...
PRESENTLY, AT THE AIRPORT--WHERE E-MAN SHOWS A HASTILY-PREPARED SKETCH OF THE THOUGHTMASTER TO THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY...
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS MAN?
WHY, YES--HE'S A MEMBER OF DR. GANTRY BABBITT'S ENTOURAGE...!
HIS PRIVATE JUMBO-JET-- THE ANGELWING-- TOOK OFF FOR HIS HEADQUARTERS ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO...
ANY IDEA WHERE THAT IS?
CERTAINLY.
IT'S IN A LITTLE TOWN IN TEXAS...


TWO HOURS LATER IN FUEGO Y AZUFRE, TEXAS, THE ANGELWING LANDS AT GANTRY BABBITT'S HUGE PRIVATE AIRSTRIP...
"UP WITH GOD"
...AND WITHIN THE HOUR, "THE VOICE OF RIGHTEOUS LOVE" THUNDERS FROM A PULPIT ONCE MORE...

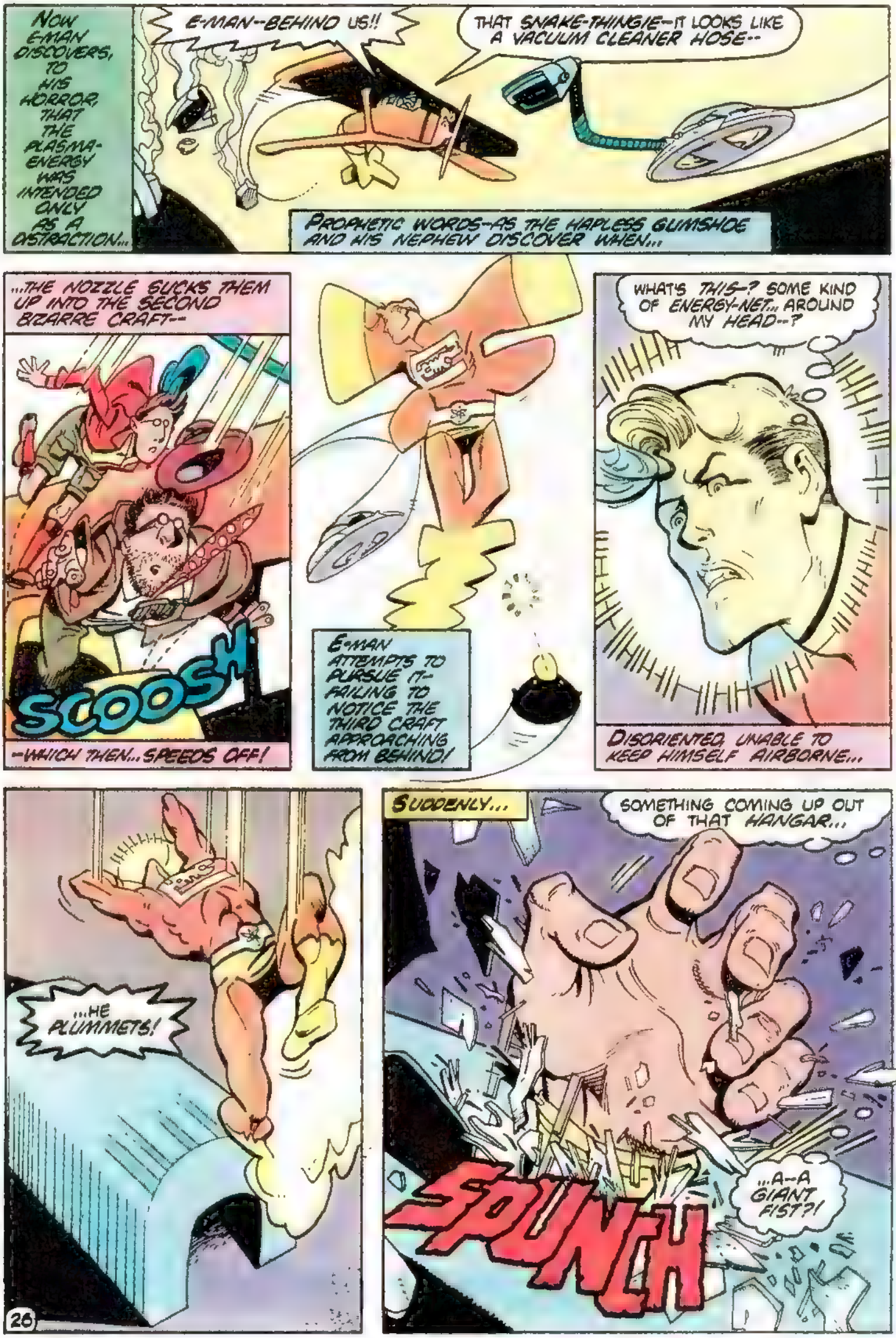

...IN THE MAIN "CHAPEL" HERE IN HIS VAST COMPLEX...
--AN' REMEMBUH, BROTHERS AN' SISTUHS, THE PRICE OF EVERLASTIN' LIFE IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE AGAINST THE FORCES O' DAHKNESS!
A SMALL PRICE TO PAY--AN' SO AH HAVE FAITH THET YEW'LL BE GENEROUS WITH YOAH LOVE OFFERIN'S! AH SAY, AH-MEN.
CUT!

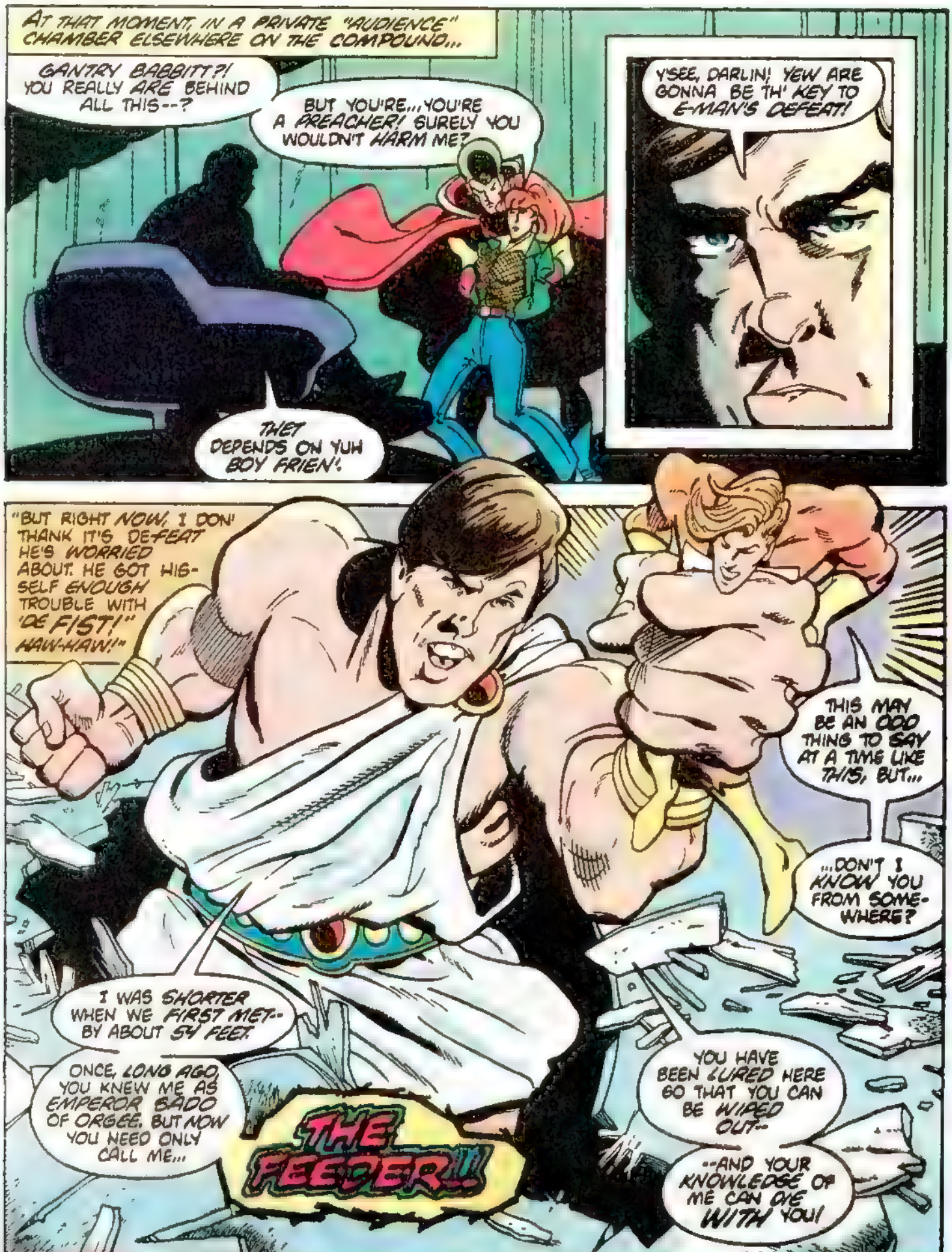
OKAY, DOC, THAT'S A WRAP!
DR. BABBITT, WE'VE GOT THAT HARLOT, KANE, SECURELY UNDER RESTRAINT--
--JUST AS YOU ORDERED. BUT, SIR, ARE YOU SURE...?

ABOUT THIS REVISED PLAN, I MEAN.
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE SIMPLY REDOUBLED OUR EFFORTS TO CAPTURE E-MAN?


FAITHFULLY, THE AIDE FOLLOWS BABBITT INTO THE ADJOINING ROOM--A SOUNDPROOF...MISSILE COMMAND CENTER??
DR. BABBITT, SIR! WE HAVE E-MAN ON OUR SCREENS.
HE'S APPROACHING FROM THE WEST, SIR--
--DISGUISED AS AN AIRCRAFT.
NOW, LUKE, D'YEW STILL THANK MAH NEW PLAN AIN'T GONNA WORK?

"YEW KNOW WHUT T'OG BROTHERS AN' SISTUHS -DEPLOY THE ORGEEAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CRAFT!
"SHOOT THET DAG-NAB ENERGY PINKO RIGHT OUTTA THE COTTON PICKIN' SKY!"
AND, AS THREE ALIEN AIRCRAFT SOAR SKYWARD FROM A SUBTERRANEAN BASE...
E-MAN-LOOK-!
WHAT IS IT, UNC?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? UNLESS GEORGE LUCAS JUS' OPENED UP A STUDIO IN TEXAS...
...IT'S A UFO!
IT'S FIRING A "PLASMA-ENERGY BEAM!!
IT'S EVERY BIT AS OTHER-WORLDLY AS THOSE CYCLES THE THOUGHTMASTER'S ACCOMPLICES WERE RIDING!
BUT RELAX-- I CAN TAKE IT OUT!
JUST HANG ON, GUYS--
KOOM
"--THE RIDE MAY BE A LITTLE ROUGH FROM HERE ON IN!"
"I DON'T GET IT," MAUSER SAYS. "IF IT'S BARRITT WHO'S TRYIN' TO SHOOT US DOWN...
...WHAT'S HE DOIN' WITH HIS OWN FLEET O' FLYIN' SAUCERS?!"
25


NOW E-MAN DISCOVERS, TO HIS HORROR, THAT THE PLASMA-ENERGY WAS INTENDED ONLY AS A DISTRACTION...
E-MAN--BEHIND US!!
THAT SNAKE-THINGIE--IT LOOKS LIKE A VACUUM CLEANER HOSE--
PROPHETIC WORDS--AS THE HAPLESS GUMSHOE AND HIS NEPHEW DISCOVER WHEN...
...THE NOZZLE SUCKS THEM UP INTO THE SECOND BIZARRE CRAFT--
SCOOSH
--WHICH THEN... SPEEDS OFF!
E-MAN ATTEMPTS TO PURSUE IT--FAILING TO NOTICE THE THIRD CRAFT APPROACHING FROM BEHIND!
WHAT'S THIS--? SOME KIND OF ENERGY-NET... AROUND MY HEAD--?
HHHH


AT THAT MOMENT, IN A PRIVATE "AUDIENCE" CHAMBER ELSEWHERE ON THE COMPOUND...
GANTRY BABBITT?! YOU REALLY ARE BEHIND ALL THIS--?
BUT YOU'RE...YOU'RE A PREACHER! SURELY YOU WOULDN'T HARM ME?
THET DEPENDS ON YUH BOY FRIEN'.
Y'SEE, DARLIN', YEW ARE GONNA BE TH' KEY TO E-MAN'S DEFEAT!
"BUT RIGHT NOW, I DON' THANK IT'S DE-FEAT HE'S WORRIED ABOUT. HE GOT HIS-SELF ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH 'DE FIST!' HAW-HAW!"
THIS MAY BE AN OOO THING TO SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT...
...DON'T I KNOW YOU FROM SOME-WHERE?
I WAS SHORTER WHEN WE FIRST MET-- BY ABOUT 54 FEET.
ONCE, LONG AGO, YOU KNEW ME AS EMPEROR BADO OF ORGEE. BUT NOW YOU NEED ONLY CALL ME...
THE FEEDER!!
YOU HAVE BEEN LURED HERE SO THAT YOU CAN BE WIPED OUT--
--AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ME CAN DIE WITH YOU!

WHY DOES A VICIOUS PSYCHO FROM OUTER SPACE WANT E-MAN DEAD? HOW DID HE GET THAT BIG? WHAT IS HIS CONNECTION WITH THIS CRAZED TELEVISION EVANGELIST? THE ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE--IN A TALE WE CALL...

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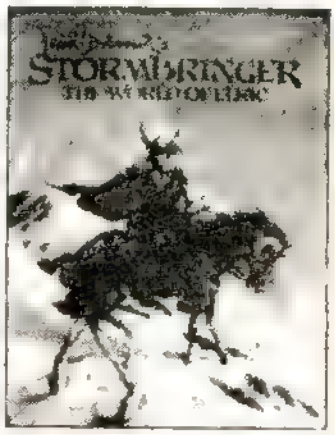

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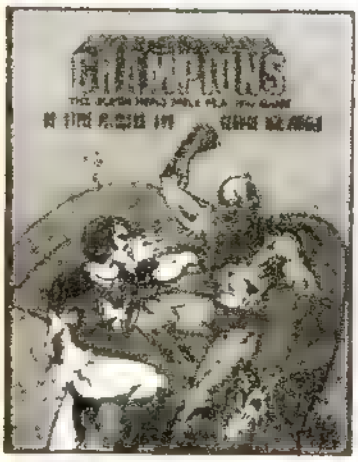

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YOUR GATEWAY TO... FANTASY

E-MAIL

c/o FIRST COMICS, 1014 DAVIS STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Dear E-Editor,

Pasko and Staton must be congratulated, story-wise! Your F-Men/Dark Albatross/W.I.M.P. epic was truly inspired, and drawn funny to boot! Will this be the start of a trend, with E-Man taking on "Delta Flight" and the "Omicron Men," or perhaps a foray into other media, against visions of the "A-Team," the G-Men, or even some B-Girls — howabout a B movie like "Alphabet Soup" starring the MX Brothers!

But enough of that, seriously, I can't thank you enough for poking fun at pretentious comics that take themselves far too seriously — comics should be willing to have a little fun once and a while. Even a fan can take only so many wall-to-wall crises.

Since Joe did such a great job with shadows and "atmosphere" on the Huntress, I hope you'll be doing some take-offs on 1930's style mysteries, the kind with all the trench coats and fog — Mauser'll fit right in!

Even your "Mostess" divertisments are a riot — I can't wait to see what Teddy Q will do with his spot there next issue.

Dave Elyea
413 Cleveland Avenue
Cheboygen, MI 49721

A '30's style mystery? One that Mauser can sink his teeth into? Perhaps a visit into Howard Chaykin's wardrobe? I dunno. After "Raiders of the Lost Buick" and "Mauser, P.I." we might want to give that sort of thing a rest — but, then again, we have this fantastic idea about doing a remake of "M" starring John Wayne Gacy ... Great stuff for comic book satire, eh wot?

Dear Marty and Joe,

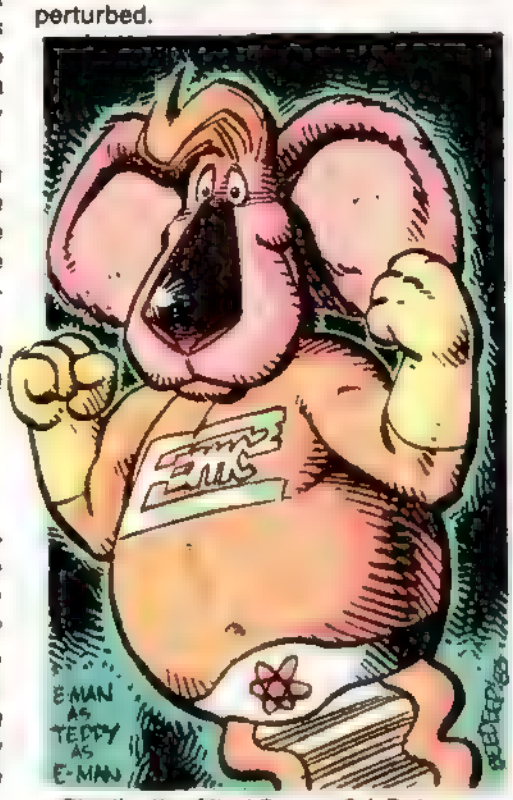
I am an average comics collector, on a limited budget, and no longer able to collect comics freely and of my own free will. Every comic I choose is first O.K.'d by my wife, and after reading, a decision is made, and the comic either is added to my collection, or is dropped. I'm sorry to report that E-Man has not survived.

Don't get me wrong. I like E-Man , issues 2 and 3 are the funniest I've read in a long time. The art is up to typical E-Man standards. I even like the idea of E-Man coming back. D*mn it ... I just can't afford to put this one in my collectibles.

Now, though, I will say that the F-Men was a wonderful satire, and one a long time overdue. While I am a Marvel fan, and love the X-Men, I cannot help but approve of the satire. I don't know how Marty managed to spot every weakness within that comic but he nailed 'em dead center. Kudos to you.

Joe, your characterizations were marvelous. Especially those of W.I.M.P. staffers, although I do think the jab at Byrne was a little unfair (I, too, read the article in Comics Scene #1). So what? It is his decision. To criticize a man for wanting to make money his way is unfair.

However, any gentle dig at Shooter is fair game. I will admit, though, that he has taken more bad press than any previous Marvel editor, and I am getting a little perturbed.



Finally, the A'tari System? A DeLorean Snowmobile? A "settlement" with W.I.M.P.? Outlandish!! Nice touch, though. Although E-Man is not on my must buy list, I will sneak a peek and keep in touch. Now if you'll just bring back ROG-2000, or the F-Men, I will be happy.

Charles B. Cockett, Jr.
353 McComb Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82007

Byrne, who happens to live in the greater Chicagoland area, certainly has the courage of his convictions and, from that courage, reacted to our characterization exactly in the spirit it was intended. **E-Man** *2 and 3* criticized *no individual.*

And there's one very good reason why Jim Shooter has been criticized more than any previous Marvel editor — he's been around longer than any previous Marvel editor, since Stan Lee. Digs, and satire, come with the job; Jim's a big man and he can take it.

I'm glad you like **E-Man,** *Charles. I only wish you could stay around to see where we're taking it*

Dear First,

I decided I won't comment on your stories per se because others are doing a fine job on that in the letters pages. What I want to discuss are what I believe to be two very important elements in building up a readership.

What is the first thing you see when you look at a comic? The cover! First's covers, especially E-Man #3, have been absolutely beautiful! You have to search for most comics; E-Man #3 found me! It seemed to jump out of the rack, grab me by the eyes, and seduce me!

Secondly, there is nothing more frustrating than a monthly or bi-monthly comic that comes out every three, six or even nine months! Check around, you know which ones I'm talking about. First Comics, a new company which I'm sure still has a lot of bugs to iron-out, has kept a consistent monthly schedule, and it is a pleasure. And it is appreciated!

Not only are you folks talented artists, writers, colorists, letterers and, of course, editors, but you are *true professionals!* You know how to run the operation and keep the gears well oiled and moving

Matthew Lewis
135 Avenue P
Brooklyn, NY 11204

Thanks for the kind words, Matthew. And, giving credit where credit is due, crack production coordinator Bruce Patterson colored the **E-Man** *#3 cover and, in fact, all other* **E-Man** *covers as well.*

While I'm on the subject, the **Warp** *covers are colored by Frank Brunner or Janice Cohen,* **Jon Sable Freelance** *and* **Starslayer** *covers are colored by Janice, and* **American Flagg** *covers are colored by Lynn Varley. True professionals all!*

Dear First People,

I've just finished reading E-Man 2 and 3, both I felt were much better than issue one.

One main reason for this was the keeping of der ghost of Albert — ja, dot's right, der phyzzicist. While vaguely amusing left on page one, when he pops up all through the book, I reach for the matches.

I have to say that I still don't think a lot of Pasko's writing. I'm not often truly

amused, mildly at most. Staton's drawings are almost always a lark. And I'm hoping for more in the future

The cover of E-3 is fantastic — that shade of pink just screams "here I am on the rack!"

Alleycan Sam Combs
809 3rd St. South
Bemidji, MN 56601

The jury's still out on Einstein, but if I were the great phyzzicist, I wouldn't start reading any continued stories

Dear E-MANiacs,

One of the most important things in any comic is the credibility of the characters. Most readers are content to suspend disbelief in the sometime outlandish concepts presented in most present-day comics, but only if the personalities of the characters are realistic enough to convince the reader that they could be real people.

E-Man and most of his supporting characters fit this criterion. The F-Men in particular are fine examples of convincing characterization. However, some of the other characters brought in for this little saga do not

Ororeo a.k.a. Drizzle I can accept. Likewise Kitty Porn alias Airhead, and Dominatrix Lililivra. This Stanley Presents person and his affiliates at W.I.M.P. are a little bit harder.

But there is no way on Earth that I will believe that anyone anything remotely like this guy Ford Fairmont exists or has existed anywhere in the world. Nope. Uh-uh. No way. Nein. Pas de chance.

Derek Stevenson
26 McKenzie St.
St. Catharines, Ontario

You're right, Derek. We made Fairmont up out of whole cloth.

Dear Editor,

I'm glad that you enjoyed poking fun at acne with your "Zitpops" character. However, there are many people, myself included, who do not find this scarring disease the least bit funny.

Fred DeBoom
9372 Tidewater Circle
Huntington Beach, CA
92646

Believe me, Fred, we were neither poking fun at acne nor at acne sufferers; but of all possible ways to misconstrue our intent, this is the one to which we should have been more sensitive. Our sincerest apologies.

Fred Hembeck, for those of who are not aware, is comics fandom's most visual commentator and most unique satirist; it is a genuine pleasure to welcome him to our pages. There's been seven collections of his work thus far published in fanzine form by Fantaco of Albany, New York — ask your friendly neighborhood comics shop owner about 'em.

NEXT MONTH: There's panic in the pulpit as **E-Man** faces the righteous wrath of Gantry Babbit, as **Marty Pasko, Joe Staton** and **Rick Burchett** join forces once again to bring you the breathtaking conclusion to our two-part tale. And — if that isn't enough — wait 'till you see ... **Nexus!** (Yes, **Nexus!**)

— Mike Gold

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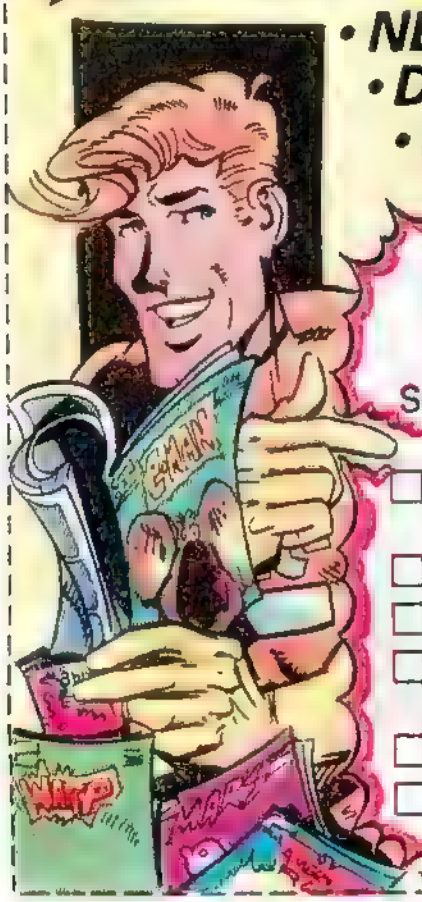

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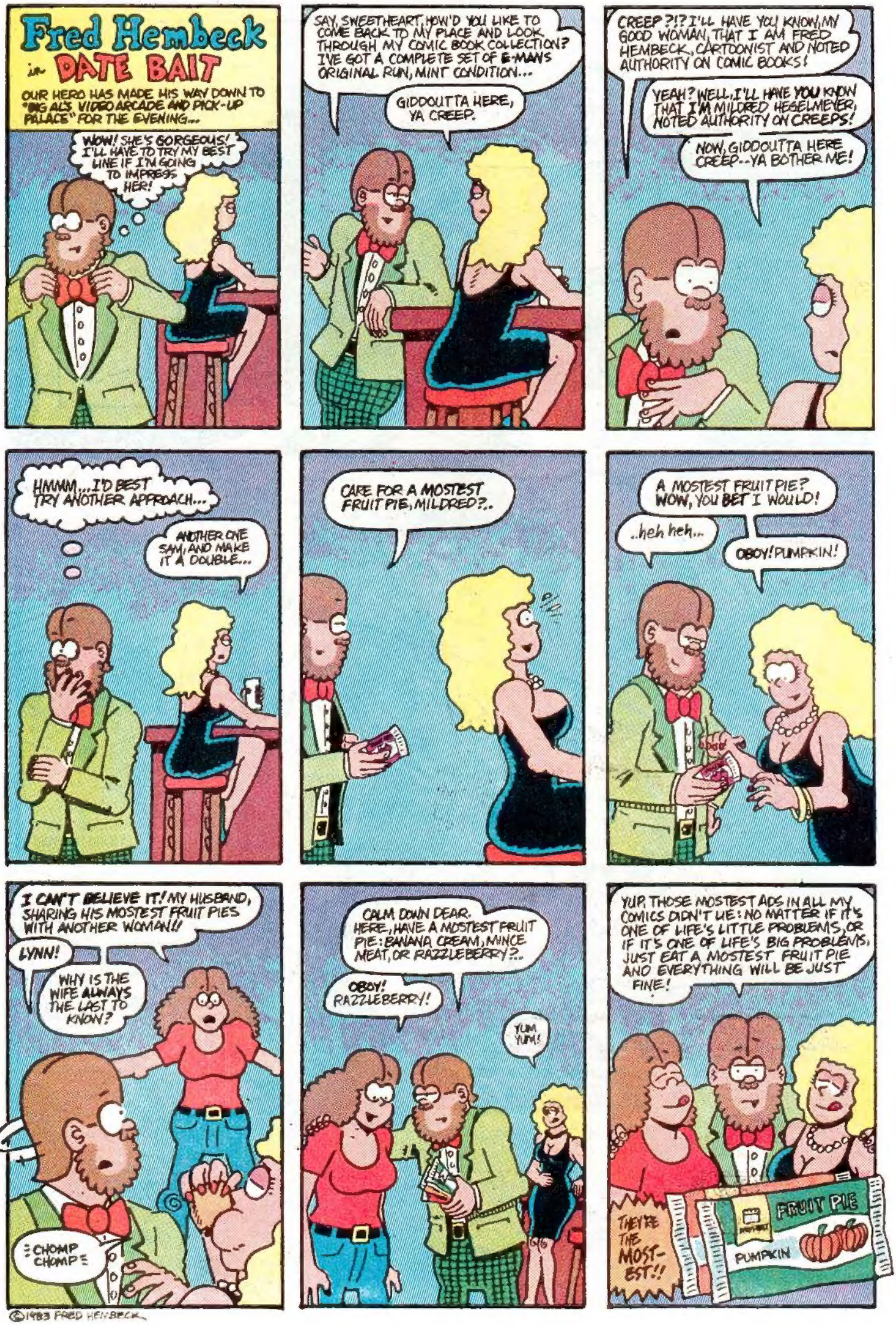
Fred Hembeck
in DATE BAIT
OUR HERO HAS MADE HIS WAY DOWN TO "BIG AL'S VIDEO ARCADE AND PICK-UP PALACE" FOR THE EVENING...
WOW! SHE'S GORGEOUS! I'LL HAVE TO TRY MY BEST LINE IF I'M GOING TO IMPRESS HER!
SAY, SWEETHEART, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO COME BACK TO MY PLACE AND LOOK THROUGH MY COMIC BOOK COLLECTION? I'VE GOT A COMPLETE SET OF E-MAN'S ORIGINAL RUN, MINT CONDITION...
GIDDOUTTA HERE, YA CREEP.
CREEP?!? I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, MY GOOD WOMAN, THAT I AM FRED HEMBECK, CARTOONIST AND NOTED AUTHORITY ON COMIC BOOKS!
YEAH? WELL, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'M MILDRED HEGELMEYER, NOTED AUTHORITY ON CREEPS!
NOW, GIDDOUTTA HERE CREEP--YA BOTHER ME!
HMMM...I'D BEST TRY ANOTHER APPROACH...
ANOTHER ONE SAM, AND MAKE IT A DOUBLE...
CARE FOR A MOSTEST FRUIT PIE, MILDRED?..
A MOSTEST FRUIT PIE? WOW, YOU BET I WOULD!
..heh heh...
OBOY! PUMPKIN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! MY HUSBAND, SHARING HIS MOSTEST FRUIT PIES WITH ANOTHER WOMAN!!
LYNN!
WHY IS THE WIFE ALWAYS THE LAST TO KNOW?
CHOMP CHOMP
CALM DOWN DEAR. HERE, HAVE A MOSTEST FRUIT PIE: BANANA CREAM, MINCE MEAT, OR RAZZLEBERRY?..
OBOY! RAZZLEBERRY!
YUM YUM!
YUP, THOSE MOSTEST ADS IN ALL MY COMICS DIDN'T LIE: NO MATTER IF IT'S ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PROBLEMS, OR IF IT'S ONE OF LIFE'S BIG PROBLEMS, JUST EAT A MOSTEST FRUIT PIE AND EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST FINE!
THEY'RE THE MOST-EST!!
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PUMPKIN
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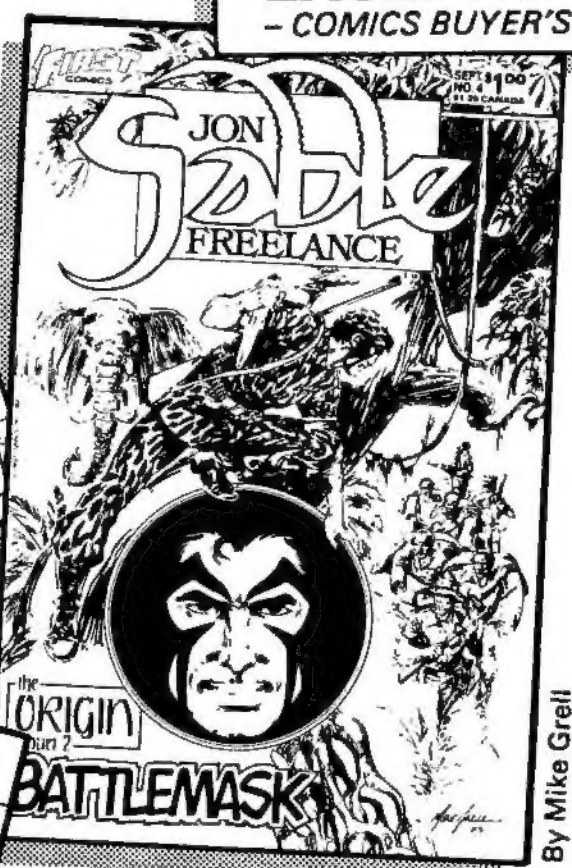

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